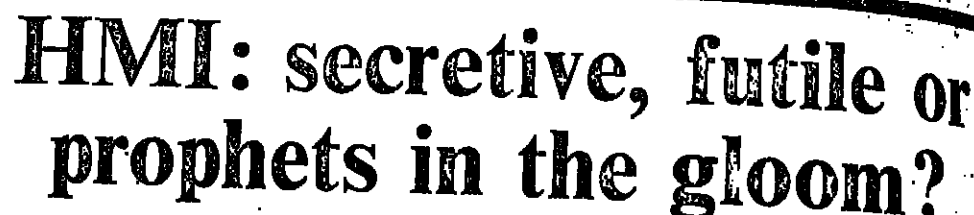


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## Who needs enemies

## Liberal blend without price

## Schools for scandal?

findings, it has been heard for the first time by the dedicated, scandal-batters and the public alike. The best of them, they have heard with the figures that school should have stayed away from a careful reading of the year's findings: here—particularly for teachers—estimates regarding the time to mitigate the general and four, apparently, shared by parents in the survey) about

## Nice respect for local authority

Ideas, however, must get about if people are to be persuaded. For some years now there has been talk of the inspectorate coming out in public more boldly, of the importance of kite flying, suggestion and debate.

The professed aim of the group, known as the Raza Group, led by Mr. Roy Wake, who lectured in Oxford last week was to "set the present national crisis in its proper perspective" and to get something done. The group was set up with some 18 members 18 months ago when it became apparent to those who sit at the centre that the tide of popularity was receding from education and that there was a rough road ahead and that the education service would probably become the object of critical public enquiry.

## Realism for the high flyers

But if the economy does not pick up—and there are those who do not think it will—or when the next crisis comes, the moment of adjustment to the harsh realities of life have been postponed, any post-contribution which the education service could make will have been put off and made more difficult because sympathy will have faded still further, funds will be tighter and morale even lower. Then an abdication will make it increasingly so.

## Setting realistic limits to the task

It invites politicians, pushed by squamer pressure, to seek to "change" directly. That, in turn, will lead to conflict and resistance from the teaching profession. If HMMG is successful, acting or preparing for the avoidance of that activity is

## by Mark Vaughan

the next week's council meeting will be a move by the Labour group to reduce the cut from £5m to £3.25m which they say will eliminate redundancies. This move is expected to have the support (both through abstentions) from a few Conservative councillors, who are now surprised at the detailed effects of policy decisions taken earlier this year.

The decision to cut next year's budget by £5m originates from a meeting of the authority's

## 'Overloaded' staff suspended between CEO and the head

**Biologists shun their subject**

Half the biology graduates looking for careers in the field are turning to other fields, according to a survey by the American Society for the Advancement of Science.

## Biologists shun their subject

Half the biology graduates looking for jobs last year ended up in work unrelated to the subject, according to a survey carried out by Mr G. R. Jones, of the University College of Aberystwyth Careers Service and published in the latest *Journal of the Institute of Biology*.

In 1975 almost half (46 per cent) went on to further study or teacher training; 31 per cent obtained employment, but only 14 per cent were in jobs relevant to their degrees. Many of these became technicians in hospitals or took jobs without career prospects such as research assistants in universities.

Mr Jones's survey of 55 applicants brought to light that only 70 vacancies for biologists in 1976 compared with 111 in 1975. There were 177 seven vacancies for higher degrees in biology compared with 33 in 1975.

This week Mr Jones said the biology graduates could look toward to jobs in biology, but other careers were open to the banking and accountancy, with a degree in any subject was a point.

Mr Ray Fox, NUT regional  
clerk, has written to Mrs Shih  
Williams, the new Education Sec-  
retary, asking her to intervene  
and declare her views on the coun-  
ty's proposed cuts. Mr Fox said he  
has been impressed by a statement  
from Mr David Ennals, Secretary of  
the National Council for Social  
Services, over the planned in-  
crease in Bury. "I feel that a  
similar word on behalf of edu-  
cation in Oxfordshire is no less  
warranted," he said.

## Most for fewest to be found in the Forest

## Public 'may not take any more'

At Tuesday's meeting of the Consultative Council on local government finance local authority leaders told the Government that they were not prepared to cut their total spending over the next five years below the present "standstill" level.

This gave a clear warning that the proposals set out in last February's White Paper would mean a reduction to below "standstill" level, if spending was not improved.

Sir Robert Thomas, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said: "I did discuss

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# ILEA Tories ask: 'How many more Tyndales are there?'

by Bert Lodge

Tories made maximum political capital out of the William Tyndale affair when the report by Mr Robin Auld, QC, came before the ILEA Education Committee on Tuesday. They accused the Labour-controlled authority of ignoring schools seriously under-performing in examination results and of keeping poor truancy rates hidden under a cloak of secrecy "because it suits Sir Ashley Bramall, leader of the ILEA, to keep it that way". They demanded "How many more William Tyndales are there?"

When they called for the inquiry into allegations of inefficiency by the education officer, Dr Eric Brault, to be conducted by Sir James Swaffield, Director-General of the Greater London Council, they were assured by Sir Ashley that had already been arranged.

A motion moved by the Conservative leader, Mr Robert Vigers, calling for the schools sub-committee to find out which schools were causing anxiety and to do something about them was carried. It had been amended to remove any reference to "serious under-performance in examination results or other factors" as being specific reasons for anxiety.

Mr Vigers said that in this year's transfer procedure there were 30 secondary schools which were more than 30 per cent, and in some cases as much as 60 per cent, under-subscribed. He complained there had been no investigation into these rejected schools.

He also complained that out of nearly 150,000 pupils in ILEA comprehensive schools only 250 were



Eric Brault



Robert Vigers

working on sixth-form courses in technical studies. He wondered how many had satisfactory technical departments or were comprehensive in name only.

The danger signals of a poor school were: being under-subscribed, poor examination results and a high truancy rate. Yet no investigation into schools with these characteristics were carried out by the schools sub-committee.

Sir Ashley Bramall said he thought the Conservative motion should be accepted in the spirit in which it was moved. But a lot of publicity was not wanted.

What was wanted was prompt information about bad schools so that ILEA members could do something about it. He did not agree that an under-subscribed school created a prima facie reason for concern.

As far as standards were concerned the authority had already begun, at primary level, to ensure that ILEA members could do something about it. He did not agree that an under-subscribed school created a prima facie reason for concern.

Moving the successful amendment, Mr George Carter, one of the teacher advisers to Mr Auld, said he wanted to know what the schools were doing to ensure that standards were maintained. He said he was not sure that the schools were doing enough.

Mr Vigers said that in this year's transfer procedure there were 30 secondary schools which were more than 30 per cent, and in some cases as much as 60 per cent, under-subscribed. He complained there had been no investigation into these rejected schools.

He also complained that out of nearly 150,000 pupils in ILEA comprehensive schools only 250 were

aged to come into them. It was not necessary for other people to know what was going on in them.

Mrs Mair Galside, chairman of the authority's development sub-committee, said there was not a single ILEA secondary school which had a first class technical department. But the problem was staffing them. "We have recruited over 100 staff from industry yet we are still short", she said.

When the Auld report, which had already been received by the schools sub-committee in July and led to the resignation of the chairman, Mr Harvey Hinde, was presented to the committee, Mr Vigers said he was concerned that the education officer had been asked to report on the role of himself and other directors-general or some other person he was invited to join in the investigation?

Mr Mervyn Scorgie, another member of the opposition, said he thought such a step would make the situation look fairer to the teachers of the school who were facing disciplinary action.

Sir Ashley replied that he objected to bringing in other people. There was a staff code which had to be conformed to and that had to be the person to conduct inquiries. But as the William Tyndale teachers had made complaints against the education officer, he had referred the matter to the directors-general as the only person with the necessary competence.

Mr Vigers said one of the most

## Suspended rally support

A rally in support of the teachers from William Tyndale who are facing disciplinary action will be held on Monday at the Conway Hall, London.

Also on Monday night the teachers of William Tyndale school will be holding their routine meeting of the new year.

Organized by the William Tyndale Support Group, whose members include a strong element from the North London Teachers' Association, the rally is intended to demonstrate the support of the Tyndale teachers for the school and to show the school's reluctance to be interfering in the affairs of the junior school.

"Our solution is a greater development of responsibility to local communities without the umbrella of ILEA, if necessary," said Mr Vigers.

Mr Vigers said his side of the chamber had time and again drawn attention to standards in schools. A change of attitude to the inspectorate was now noticeable in the authority. "What a tragedy there had to be a William Tyndale to bring it out", he remarked.

Sir Ashley said steps had already been taken to ensure information was taken to the right people and to strengthen the inspectorate. But the £4,000-dollar question was what happens when teachers fail to take inspectors' advice? "We accept a situation where the teachers are failing but there's nothing we can do about it", he said.

Sir Ashley thought that if there were other William Tyndales in inner London they would have heard about them.

Mr Carter hoped members of the teaching profession, struggling to carry on with all the problems of inner city schools, would not be discouraged by the remarks of Mr Vigers and start applying for jobs in easier places.

## Tameside probe into boys v girls

by Stephen Cohen

The Equal Opportunities Commission is to mount a major survey on discrimination in secondary schools throughout the country.

The commission asked its education sub-committee on Monday to set up the investigation on possible discriminatory provision in secondary education. At the same time the sub-committee will look into allegations of discrimination at Tameside, Greater Manchester.

Parents have complained that more than twice as many grammar school places were offered to boys as girls in Tameside after the council won its legal battle to preserve selection. A spokesman for the commission emphasized that the investigation was not concerned with the type of secondary education offered in the borough "but solely with equality of opportunity as between boys and girls". The inquiry will look at the effect the revised scheme has on equality of opportunity in education.

The borough had been due to go fully comprehensive but a Conservative victory in the local elections produced a change of direction and a plan to preserve grammar schools. The plan followed a long battle through the courts, ending in defeat for the Education Secretary at the time, Mr Fred Mulley.

Unlike investigations into alleged discrimination in other areas, the commission will not be able to issue a non-discrimination notice. Tameside is found to be in breach of the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975. A section of the Act prevents the commission from serving a notice on the council. Instead a report will be sent to the Education Secretary.

Secretary will then be placed in the unenviable position of having to decide whether to invoke Section 68 of the Education Act, 1944 to require the council to exercise its duties reasonably.

It was Section 68 which Mr Mulley refused to invoke for his case against Tameside. A decision by the new Education Secretary, Mrs Shirley Williams, to proceed against the council on the same lines would have to be taken very carefully.

The inquiry was for the aggressive parents who complained to the commission would be to start civil proceedings. But, Mrs Betty Hales, leader of the parents' action group, said they could not afford this. "Civil proceedings would cost a lot of money", she said. "That's an avenue we won't be walking up."

Mrs Hales said she was delighted that the commission was starting an inquiry. "They are saying 'they think wrong' for 30 years statistics have proved that girls are brighter than boys at the age of 11. Yet girls only got 99 places out of 240 under the selection scheme."

Mrs Hales contrasted one 11-year-old girl with a reading age of 14, who did not get a grammar school place, with a boy who got out of 20 in a maths test but did get in.

"Something is wrong there," she said. "If ever there was justice for a Minister to intervene under Section 68, surely it must be now."

A spokesman for the commission in Manchester said it was not known how long the national enquiry would take or how it would be carried out.

## Most stay on in the south-east

The South-East has maintained its position as the region with the highest percentage of pupils staying on at school. Figures just published by the Department of Education show that 30 per cent of 13-year-olds stay on over 16 and 22 per cent continue at school until they are 17 or more.

The North-West is bottom of the table with 18 per cent older than 16 and 14.5 per cent aged 17.

The education statistics for 1974 also show that the percentage of school leavers, with at least five O levels at one A level is exactly the same as in 1972, when 25.6 per cent of boys and girls left school with one or other qualification.

The percentage with two A levels fell slightly from 13.4 in 1972 to 13.1 in 1974.

Prospects for part-time day re-leave courses have grown dimmer since 1970 when employers released 705,451 students. In 1974 there were 624,604. But the chances of further education for girls aged 18 and over have grown brighter: 64,879 were released in 1974, compared with 47,951 in 1970.

The statistics include details of Open University students for the first time. They reveal that one-third are teachers and 14 per cent describe themselves as housewives. The proportion of students with no formal qualifications increased slightly from 6.3 per cent in 1971 to 7.5 per cent in 1974.

Other tables show that the overall pupil-teacher ratio in state schools improved from 21.1:1 in 1973 to 20.8:1 in 1974.

Spending on libraries in higher education reveals the split between universities and polytechnics. The former had £20.58m in 1974 for libraries, salaries, books, periodicals and binding, the polytechnics £5.24m.

The total cost of the education service in 1974 was £4,182m. Education statistics for the United Kingdom 1974, HMSO, £5.80.

## Rhodesia grant not cut off, says ministry

Allegations that the British Government has cut off the grants of over 500 of the 750 Rhodesian African students admitted to the United Kingdom last year were described as "woefully untrue" by the Ministry of Overseas Development this week.

The allegations were contained in a statement from the Catholic Commission for Racial Justice whose secretary, Mr Ignatius Chigwendere, is a Rhodesian African.

The statement says the grants are being withdrawn because of the students' poor performance in their studies during the past academic year. The number of Rhodesian African students this autumn has also been restricted, the statement says. Although the Ministry had 60 applications only 11 have been accepted.

A spokesman for the Ministry said that there would be "relatively few" grants likely to be withdrawn.

"It certainly won't be in the hundreds," he said. "I don't know where he got his figures from. The British Council has to have reports from individual colleges and they are not complete yet. The number losing their grant may even be less than is normal for British students in a college here."

The spokesman also denied that only 11 Rhodesian African students had been admitted to postgraduate courses for 1976-77. "The number accepted is either 20 or 21," he said.

And this is from a total of 1,600 applications from all over the world. Possession of at least a lower second in a first degree merely qualifies a student to apply for a postgraduate course. It does not guarantee acceptance.

He said the total of African students receiving financial support in this country was about 1,100, costing £2.3m in the coming academic year. Of these 150 had been admitted for the coming academic year.

It is agreed that there had been a big influx last year and that their academic range was very wide. Mr Chigwendere said he had kept in touch with many of them and had also inquired of the Ministry. He was certain that about 70 per cent of the total were not to have their grant renewed.

He freely recognized that the academic standards of many of the hundreds who arrived last year were low but blames this on the British Government.

The agreement reached between Commonwealth heads of states at far back as 1966 was that grants would be provided to Commonwealth students who had reached O level standards," he said.

"But last year the British Government failed to set up a machinery within Rhodesia for processing students to ensure that the most deserving had priority. Instead Heathrow was flooded with a lot of less-merited students, whose parents could afford the cost of travel."

The Reverend Elliott Kendall, chairman of the working party for Rhodesian students set up by the United Kingdom Council for Overseas Students Affairs, said that the standard of Rhodesian African students last year followed a Home Office decision earlier in 1975 to release them from the close scrutiny normal for overseas students.

"Evidence of financial support and of acceptance at a place of learning was waived," he said. "It did result in anybody who could raise the fare coming. Only about 100 were not accepted."

Reports that youngsters had been encouraged to come to Britain as part of a political manoeuvre to force the British Government to spend some of the £50m it had promised to spend on Rhodesian black education in the 1972 Pearce conference in London of the National Union of Zimbabwe Students.

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*A chapter of errors: "Teaching Styles and Pupil Progress in retrospect" by John M. Gray.*

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From Volume 6 (1976/77) the Journal of Moral Education will be published by NFER on behalf of the Social Morality Council. The subscription for one volume will be £10, and covers three issues appearing in October, January and May.

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## PERSONAL COLUMN

### Maurice Peston Stepping out of the mould

Reflecting on the debate on progressive education and all that, I came across the following statement: "If I thought of a future, I dreamt of one day founding a school in which young people would learn without boredom, and would be stimulated to pose questions and discuss them; a school in which no unwanted answers to unasked questions would have to be listened to; in which one did not study for the sake of passing examinations."

Now, it might be thought that this was the view of some modish advocate of low standards, a trendy leftist anxious to stage all that is best in the European academic tradition. In fact, it is to be found in the recently published autobiography of Karl Popper. Popper, the world's greatest philosopher, is of course called in support of the propagandists of freedom of choice, and there can be no shadow of doubt concerning his liberal credentials.

I merely mention him in order to point out that there is no single connection between the philosophy of liberalism and the curriculum. Progressivism is a good deal more liberal in the strict sense of the term, and is the traditional style of teaching, and to put the troubles at William Tyndale into perspective, find they had much more sympathy for Mr Ellis than for Mr Walker.

Carrying on with quotations, what about this one? "A great deal of needless pain and friction would be saved to clever children if they were not compelled to associate intimately with the stupid." There is no doubt so idea that rubbing up against the stupid and sundry in youth is a good preparation for life. This appears to be rubbish. No one, in later life, associates with all and sundry. Book makers are not obliged to live among clergymen, or clergymen among bookmakers.

How reactionary can you get? The author of the quotation is Lord Royston, but Bertrand Russell is much admired by many people as being in the vanguard of educational progressivism. It is extremely clever, and his objection to the kind of mixing of abilities in the school is most if not all, hardly be cited as an advocate of the principle of comprehensive education.

More generally on William Tyndale, I must say that I am rather worried about some of the responses to the Auld report. Clearly it was right for the chairman of the ILEA's school sub-committee to resign, although he himself does not seem fully to understand why. It is not a personal matter, simply that responsibility. The point has been put differently and perhaps a trifle cynically; those who seek the plaudits and advancement that go with success can hardly logically reject the criticism and resignation that accompany failure.

But what of the teachers? I am bound to say that in my estimation both sides come out of the inquiry better than could have been expected. Indeed, I would go further and suggest that Mr Auld may have overdone his strictures somewhat.

It may be suggested that what is to be interpreted in terms of local circumstances and an inadequate concentration of incompetent people, unlikely ever to happen again. I would like to believe so. But the only way such a conclusion could be reached would be by an investigation into all London's primary schools. And in considering that we should all reflect, institutions we work for would stand questioning of a Mr Auld.

The investigation being undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate is to be welcomed, but equally the ILEA must take the problem seriously. The state of 13 primary schools cannot be taken for granted, and it is not only the pathetic critics who feel the issue

## Pre-school care 'Shameful'

Pre-school care and education in Britain is "shamefully inadequate", according to Mr John Hipkin, recently Director of the Advisory Centre for Education.

Three-quarters of the nation's under-fives are still without any pre-school education and expenditure on education and expenditure on health are going to make it difficult to maintain even the present meagre supply of existing nursery provision, he said on Wednesday.

In a new ACE publication dealing with pre-schooling, Mr Hipkin says that of 2,500,000 children aged between two and four in England and Wales, only 14 per cent receive any kind of full-time pre-school education.

Of these only 4.7 per cent were in nursery schools. The majority attend day nurseries and playgroup schools. A further 78,000 aged five-year-olds in day nurseries education in maintained nursery schools and classes.

This, says Mr Hipkin, leaves two million children not catered for by the state system.

The new publication *The Best of Where on Pre-schooling* (£1.50) is a collection of articles on the subject which have appeared in the magazine in recent years.

## Volunteers are discouraged by the wage lag

Voluntary organizations find it difficult to recruit trained staff because they cannot pay as well as local authorities or offer as much chance of promotion.

The number of trained staff they employ and the amount of training they do should, however, be maintained, says a report by the Personal Social Services Council published this week.

*Voluntary Social Service: Manpower Resources*, based on a survey of 44 national voluntary organizations, says they provide a significant back-up to the statutory services. They also offer an important element of choice to the public.

The organizations studied included the National Council of Social Service, the NSPCC, Age Concern, Community Service Volunteers and the Spastics Society. The report predicts that because most of them tend to increase staffs by between five and 25 per cent, and because of inflation, they will find it hard to keep up levels of training and numbers of trained staff.

*Voluntary Social Service Manpower Resources*, Personal Social Services Council, Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN. Price £1.20.

## Bullying charge 'a smear'

The headmaster of a comprehensive in Derbyshire, has denied allegations of bullying at his school after a 15-year-old girl took a drug overdose, claiming that she had been attacked by other girls.

The girl at Alderbrook Comprehensive School, Mansfield, took 24 valium tablets on her way to school and had to have her stomach pumped out. The head, Mr Donald Cliffe, has sent a report on the affair to the school governors and the director of education for Derbyshire.

Mr Cliffe said this week there had been incidents outside the school, and it appeared the girl had been "pushed in the back" on her way home on the first day of term. "I am satisfied that there is no way the school could have anticipated or prevented this child taking these drugs. We have helped this family and others in every way possible."

He was planning no changes or further action as a result of his investigation. The girl's parents had not complained and she is expected to return to school after seeing a psychiatrist.

Mr Cliffe said he was unhappy that children at the school, which was not in a rough area, had been labelled "bullies" by press reports.

A 13-year-old girl who runs away from home rather than return to the Lady Capel girls' school in Paversham, Kent, at the beginning of term because she was afraid of being "picked on" by other girls, was returned to her parents by police last week.

The school's headmistress, Miss M. K. Beard said she was still mystified by what had happened. She had talked to the staff and other girls but had "drawn a blank". She saw the mother on Monday but had not seen the girl herself since the end of last term. Miss Beard said she understood there was no suggestion anyone had ever touched or threatened the girl.

## Devolution will bring control

Devolution to Wales will not mean increased central control and interference in the running of the education service, Mr John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales told the Welsh conference of the National Union of Teachers on Saturday.

He said that when the devolution White Paper was published it was made clear that education would be devolved to the Welsh Assembly.

The freedom to determine its own expenditure priorities would be one of the most important powers which the new Assembly will have, he said. "For the first time the decision about the share which various services should receive will be subject to public debate here in Wales."

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# Will the new boss take up where she left off?

by Philip Venning

Mrs Shirley Williams must be the first education minister for years to end up where she expected. Although the educational church bells may be quietly ringing to welcome her back, she must have been a bit disappointed to return — albeit on legs — to the department she left in 1968.

It was all so predictable. With food subsidies on the way out, her job as Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection was disappearing from under her. Upgraded by Callaghan to give her more strength within the Cabinet and the Labour Party, she nevertheless failed to make the big time.

The Home Office was promised to Mr Merlyn Rees, to which otherwise she might have aspired. But Defence, although popular under a Labour Government, would have given her the chance she still needs to get away from the "women's jobs" which seem to be her fate. For someone who has been tipped as promising throughout her political life, she desperately needs a job where she can show what she is worth. Will education be that job?

Asked last year the perennial question about her career plans, with the usual speculation about being Britain's first woman Prime Minister, she showed a predicted return to education. Not that her characteristic passion and enthusiasm have been dampened. Nor will the doubts surrounding education have reduced her interest in it. Even while she was minister in charge of higher education in the late sixties, she forecast a decline. In 1968 she told the Association for Liberal Education that the days of questioned education spending were numbered, and that in the next 10 to 20 years there would be a real dispute about the value of education.

By the time she left the DES in 1969 for the Home Office she had already started talks with vice-chancellors on ways of cutting higher education costs. She returned to the discussions virtually where she left off. At that time she warned the vice-chancellors that because so many young people were passing two A levels, the demand for higher education was likely to rocket in the mid-1970s. Should the Government provide the extra places, or should the universities cut their costs, she asked?

The boom in A levels has not kept up but the increase in the size of the age group is unavoidable. Seven years later the Government has still to decide what to do.

Mrs Williams's famous list of cuts was among some of the more radical and imaginative so far produced. Her suggestion that students should receive grants only if they agreed to be directed to specific jobs on graduation has a current appeal which no one then could have anticipated.

If it is true that Mr Callaghan is determined to make education more responsive to the needs of the economy, a modified version of this idea could soon be doing the rounds again.

Other parts of her plan included: student loans, restriction on overseas students, two-year rather than three-year courses, the reorganization of the academic year, and a new emphasis on part-time study.

But she had left the DES by the time the proposals were being widely discussed. She had come to



it, her first ministerial job, two years earlier in 1967. At that time she was being tipped to take over from Mr Anthony Crosland, who was shortly to leave the DES. But it was not to be.

She had not long been in Parliament. It had taken her ten years before she was elected MP for Hitchin in 1964. But that was one of the high points in the career of someone whose progress in life seems inevitable. In spite of her slightly disarming appearance.

Lady Astor, on being introduced to her, is reputed to have said "You don't never get on in politics, my dear, with that hair." But it was precisely her down-to-earthness, her apparent disregard for silly conventions, which made her so acceptable.

Interviewed in *The Sunday Times* this year on her return, she said: "I don't think I have any advantage over the other people in the cabinet. I am the daughter of the people and I look like it." Mrs Williams was born in 1930, the daughter of famous Thirties revolutionaries. Her father, Sir George Catlin, and Vera Brittain, author of *Testament of Youth*.

Zealous and as a child she was the underdog of the bridges because of her parents' progressive ideas of education, partly because she was evacuated to the United States during the war. She spent two brief spells at St Paul's, the girls' public school, and won a scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford.

At 16 she had joined the Labour League of Youth and her interest in politics never faded. At Oxford she was chairman of the second in politics, philosophy and economics she went to Columbia University to do postgraduate work on trade unions.

Returning to Britain in 1952, she was invited to work on the *Daily Mirror* but was sacked after a year. She then joined the *Financial Times*, where she stayed for four years. In 1955 she married Professor Bernard Williams, and they had one daughter, Becky, who is now at Godolphin School, London. Her marriage broke up in 1974 after a

lot of heart searching. Mrs Williams remains a practising Roman Catholic.

Meanwhile, her political reputation was being established. At the age of 29 she became the general secretary of the Fabian Society, brought together a group of young Labour politicians and a side experts to come to terms with awkward political issues.

In 1964 Mrs Williams finally made it to Parliament after three attempts and was promptly made Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of Health. She switched to the Ministry of Labour, and then in 1967 became Minister of State for Education and Science.

To start with she was given responsibility for schools, and was soon announcing the Government's commitment in principle to a PPS report. But nine months later Mr Patrick Gordon Walker became the new education secretary, and she moved to higher education where she was to make her mark.

During that period she had the task of selling the new polytechnic to a sceptical higher education world. She also made several notable speeches about over-specialization in exams and the educational needs of girls.

When the Labour Government fell in 1970 she became, in succession, Opposition spokesman on social services, home affairs and prices and consumer protection.

In 1970 Mrs Williams was elected on to the Labour Party national executive committee, and in 1972 topped the Shadow Cabinet poll along with Mr Roy Jenkins. Her popularity was to take some whiff of a heading when her passionate commitment to the Common Market brought her into a head-on clash with the Labour anti-market forces.

In 1973 she announced publicly that she would not stay in politics if the planned EEC referendum produced a majority in favour of joining out. This was regarded by a small number of enemies as an indulgent piece of personal publicity seeking which jeopardized party unity as a difficult time.

Since then she has clashed with left-wingers over economic policy, and there is no doubt that although education is hardly the vehicle to extend her influence over Government policy, Mrs Williams will be taking a more active part in Cabinet and on the various Cabinet committees which she will continue to chair.

# Bullock in action would cost millions, says NUT

by Stephen Cohen

It would cost £1m each to carry out 55 of the Bullock Committee's recommendations on reading and English teaching, says the National Union of Teachers. Sixty-five other recommendations would cost nearly as much.

The remaining 110 proposals, although fairly cheap, could not be carried out on their own.

The union's commentary on the Bullock report, which was published in January, 1975, quotes the example of recommendation 98 which calls on teachers to devise ways of extending their pupils' interests in fiction and increasing their private reading. Taken in isolation, this is a low-cost recommendation, it says.

"Yet, such a change of approach on the part of the teachers will result in the children seeking out fiction and other books and then discovering, as the committee did, that many secondary schools have a disturbingly small number of library books per pupil."

According to Bullock, 70 per cent of schools have fewer than 11 books for each pupil—the minimum standard set by the Library Association. About 44 per cent have fewer than eight books.

The union says: "The children will also discover no proper facilities for private reading." As a result, recommendation 98 can only be fully effective if two other high-cost proposals on providing books and libraries are implemented first.

The 17 principal recommendations of the Bullock report are examined in detail. The union says: "One high cost element in them... One auxiliary helper in each of the 4,675 secondary schools would cost at least £3,791,425."

It would also be highly expensive to make sure that all schools had the battery tape recorders, projectors and other audio-visual equipment which the Bullock Committee believed to be important. Seventeen per cent of secondary schools do not have a radio; 13.6 per cent do not have a slide or loop projector, and 42.6 per cent are without a portable battery operated tape recorder.

A survey of local authority reactions to the report reveals that there has been little extra provision overall in in-service courses and little progress has been made in setting up home visiting schemes. However, extra advisory teachers have been appointed in some areas to support the work of the subject and general advisers in the field of language development.

Adult literacy is one area in which activity has been extended by all authorities, "although it is doubt-



Some are reading but there are not enough books to go round.

ful whether the Bullock report can claim credit for this."

Few authorities indicated that extra money was to be spent on books and teaching aids. Some considered that extra provision of the role of the library services and possible redeployment of these resources. In most cases financial stringency was used as an explanation for the lack of progress in this field and underlines yet again the urgent need to establish a national working party to examine all aspects of school revenue (one of the principal recommendations).

Few authorities had provided auxiliary help and some schools had been told that if the help was made available it would have to be from existing provision.

"Many authorities indicated that further implementation of the report was limited and that progress would be subject to the necessary resources being made available. In several areas, working parties had been established to examine the implications of a 'language across the curriculum' policy and in others, reading surveys and screening techniques were the subject of discussion."

# Human Rights body to probe Scottish belting

The European Commission on Human Rights has appointed a rapporteur to gather evidence on the effects of corporal punishment in Scottish schools.

This follows complaints from the parents of a seven-year-old Glasgow boy that Strathclyde Regional Council refused to guarantee that he would not witness or receive the belt. The parents, having exhausted all internal channels, then reported the council to the commission in Strasbourg.

Their case is being supported by the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties. Although the reference is a specific one, the rapporteur is expected to make general observations on the effects of the use of the belt in schools.

Miss Lois Aitkenhead, a voluntary case worker with the SCCL, says the appointment of an investigator is itself a breakthrough. Many cases went to the commission and were rejected. The procedure is that the rapporteur makes his recommendations which will go to the European Court for approval.

Miss Aitkenhead did not know how long the investigation would take, but said the commission's examination of the case took five years. The court's decision should be binding not only on schools in Strathclyde but throughout Scotland.

Strathclyde Region, she added, had said little in its defence except that it would be impossible to maintain discipline in schools without the last resort of the belt. "There is something far wrong in Scottish schools if the teacher cannot control his class without the use of this barbaric instrument. Instead of belting kids, we should be looking at the underlying reasons why classes cannot be controlled without the belt."

A spokesman for Strathclyde Education Authority said they had had no formal notification of the case or the circumstances and therefore could not comment.

On Monday Councillor Albert Long, chairman of the Regional Social Work Committee, announced that he would be proposing a motion to the full council next month that the strap in schools be banned. He said it had done nothing to lessen delinquency in Scotland. "The social work department would never dream of belting children who were in their care and he did not see why the education system should condone it. Councillor Long felt that teachers had had long enough to phase out corporal punishment: the end was still not in sight."

Education authorities should therefore insist on banning the belt. The impact the effect would be to make teachers rethink their attitudes to discipline. The rapporteur will make his investigations under Articles 2 and 3 of the commission's charter. Article 2 deals with parents' rights to have their children educated in line with their educational and religious philosophy. Article 3 is concerned with inhuman treatment and punishment.

The Department of Education and Science has received a formal complaint that last month's decision of Newcastle education authority to use a heavier strap was unreasonable, and that the Department should intervene under section 58 of the 1944 Education Act. The Paria Trust, whose main concern is with battered wives and their children, has written to the Secretary of State asking her to change the Department's normal policy of leaving corporal punishment to the discretion of individual authorities.

The trust says it was told not to expect a reply for three or four weeks while the DES considers the legal and policy implications of the request. The trust is considering taking the issue up with the European Commission if the country "cannot put its own house in order."

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by Haydn Richards

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# Mr Oakes goes back too

Mr Gordon Oakes, who took over the reins as Minister in Charge of Further Higher Education, replaced Mr Gerry Foyler, who was appointed in January. Mr Oakes leaves the Department of the Environment where he was joint chairman of the National Waste Management Advisory Council. This is not his first job in the Department of Education and Science. Between 1967 and 1970 he was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mr Denis Healey, and he has been Mr Williams's deputy since 1974.

# Jarvis asks for morale boost

The National Union of Teachers welcomed the appointment of Mrs Williams as Education Secretary this week and elapsed in a request for an early meeting to discuss outstanding details from Mr Mulley's regime. Mrs Jarvis, NUT general secretary, congratulated Mrs Williams on her appointment and asked her to restore morale in the education service. Mrs Jarvis also asked for a change in Government policy where education is concerned.

# Week of marking gains and losses

The Council for Educational Advancement has declared a national education week from November 7 to 13 and is planning numerous public events to draw attention to cutbacks in education as well as publicizing the positive value of what goes on in schools and colleges.

The campaign will be based on Education Sunday two weeks before battle commences. There is some uncertainty, though, about whether Anglican and Roman Catholic priests will refer to the week. Church representatives have not assured the council that the message will be broadcast on October 24, the traditional day for prayers and sermons on the importance of education.

The council is billing open days and open evenings in "thousands of schools and colleges", public meetings, demonstrations, concerts, plays and pageants "to demonstrate the

positive value of education to our national life". The idea is that the public should be shown the good bits of education and then told: "Next year this activity will not be possible because it has been cut from the budget."

Local petitions and lobbying of councillors may be organized for national activities. Mr Henry Clither, head of publicity for the NUT and secretary of the council, said that Mrs Shirley Williams, the new Education Secretary, would be invited to speak during the week. "We will offer her a platform on which she can state where she stands."

There are seven CEA groups in the country—Manchester, Leicester, Brighton, Brent, Haringey, Coven-

try and Gravesend. Mr Bill Bowden, the national chairman, said he did not expect to get large numbers turning out in support, but if we have to get concerned we shall have done a great deal more than has been attempted in recent times."

He hoped there would be at least some local lobbying to make it clear to councillors that there was concern about education. If there was one demonstration by ratepayers against cuts, he would regard the campaign as a success. Mr Clither said that if there was not a groundswell of support the council would have to work harder. "We are running a flag up the mast to see if people salute it."

Nearly 50 organizations are affiliated to the CEA, including industrial and white-collar trade unions, religious bodies, political parties and community organizations.



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Full details are obtainable from the Academic Registrar and Secretary (Higher Degrees in Education), University of Exeter, Northcote House, Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QL.

Applicants for Diploma, B.Ed. or M.Ed. courses who are L.E.A. teachers are eligible for secondment on full salary; other teachers may be eligible for grants from Local Authorities.

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## MSc Quaternary Studies (CNAAB)

The two Polytechnics offer a new part-time course, commencing in January, 1977, leading to an MSc in Quaternary Studies. Run jointly by the Department of Geography at the Polytechnic of North London and the Department of Geology and Geography at the City of London Polytechnic, it is designed to take full advantage of the facilities of both institutions.

The course aims to promote a fuller understanding of the Quaternary period. It is hoped that the skills acquired on the course will contribute significantly to the status of graduates as researchers in relation to the fields of physical geography, geology, botany, zoology and archaeology, or to further their careers as teachers or lecturers in these disciplines.

Over a period of two years, teaching takes place on two evenings a week for three hours each, with a weekend study day at weekends. The degree will be awarded on the basis of a written examination, and the submission of a thesis.

Applicants should have a good honours degree in a subject related to the study of the Quaternary. Further information can be obtained from the Admissions Office, Room 383, at the Polytechnic of North London, Holloway Road, London N7 8LP.

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The Times Educational Supplement

While the Liberals at Llandudno hold the first annual conference since the traumatic education in three years. STEPHEN COHEN reports

## Common core plus the chance to shine

The Liberal Party enters the debate on comprehensive education with a major policy document that says some comprehensive schools should be more equal than others.

"Focus on Education" is the first Liberal statement on education for three years. It has been produced by working parties of Liberals from all over the country. Comprehensive reorganisation should not result in uniformity among secondary schools, the document says. Liberals want to explore ways of expanding choice.

"Where it is impossible to provide a full range of course and subject choices in every school in a locality, it should not be regarded as a breach of the comprehensive principle for one school to develop a speciality in one subject area, such as music or technical subjects."

A core curriculum, common to all schools, should be considered a prerequisite, but we consider it essential that the comprehensive school system should develop its own centres of excellence so that specific talents do not lie undeveloped and so that special teaching skills are not too thinly spread.

We recognize the dangers of making some comprehensive schools "more equal than others" but we can see the benefits of us many schools as possible striving to achieve their own areas of excellence. We do not regard this as incompatible with the duty of every comprehensive school to provide a sound general education to pupils of all abilities.

Liberals do not want their interpretation of choice in education to be confused with the Conservative Party's. "Choice only for the few who are lucky enough to be well-endowed financially or academically is unacceptable to us both politically and educationally." However, a Liberal Government would not abolish independent schools but remove their special charitable status and the tax relief that goes with it, and would end support from public funds.

Liberals do not support the continuation of the direct grant schools, although they regret the haste with which reform has been carried out, resulting in the loss to the state system of many good schools. There can, however, never be a truly comprehensive system of education while the local education authorities continue to pay for selected children to attend schools outside the comprehensive system.

Parents' choice of schools should not be limited only to the local education authority where they live. There should be reasonable access to schools in neighbouring areas, the document says and to give parents enough information on which to make a choice, all schools should publish a prospectus describing the methods of discipline and the style of teaching.

"If a school picks itself on being traditionalist or on being experimental it should say so," the Liberals declare.

"If it believes in the maximum degree of teacher and pupil participation it should say so. If it believes that examination success is the over-riding purpose of education, this should be made clear; and if its ethos is essentially religious, it should say so. If it is a humanist, parents are entitled to know that too."

The nature of a school's disciplinary system is also of importance. Many confrontations with authority might be avoided if parents and pupils knew more about the 'conduct' they were entering into when enrolling at a particular school.

The Liberal commitment to continuing education is reaffirmed, and the document says spending on secondary education should not be given a high priority of priority. A unified post-school system is advocated with the merging of polytechnic and universities under a single grants committee which would cut out waste and duplication of courses.

"The education of the 16-plus age group should be considered the first phase of adult education rather than the last phase of school education. It is essential that all young people at 16 should be aware of the full range of career and educational opportunities open to them and we consider that information and guidance should be given to them by the age of 14."

"We reject the artificial division between education and training and advocate the closest co-operation in the planning of courses between the Training Services Agency on the one hand and the DES, local education authorities and colleges on the other. One way of extending learning opportunities while making use of existing resources would be to open all courses of this education, whether in schools or colleges, to people of any age."

The importance of science and technology in schools is spelled out in a separate section.

"As a matter of urgency there should be measures providing for the teaching of science and technology in schools (in association with further education colleges) and also in favour of those students pursuing further studies and training in these fields."

Every school should have a core curriculum document, says the document, which would include specified standards of literacy and numeracy for each stage of education with tests to see if remedial action was needed. Work experience for older pupils is recommended.

Teachers should be able to devote their time and energies to serving their pupils constructively without being distracted by disruptive students. New curricula and methods might go some way to reducing these difficulties, but pupils who persist in making life intolerable for others should be removed for separate remedial treatment.

A national council is proposed to consider education as a whole, produce recommendations, and determine priorities. "Education is a national economic resource and its efficient planning should have a much higher priority than it does at present. Liberals emphasize the importance of coordinating the provision of further, higher and adult education and the necessity of relating educational provision to the manpower needs of industry."

Central direction on educational policy has been inconsistent in general, and Liberals consider that the whole process of educational planning and policy-making requires reappraisal. A national independent, representative, standing committee is desirable. A regular report will be published later on this.

A short section on primary schools says parents should be more involved inside the classroom.

On nursery education, the document says local authorities should be required to take up the funds allocated to them by central government for building nursery schools, instead of being allowed to refuse them as at present.

The chapter on special education urges the integration of handicapped pupils into ordinary schools which should be given extra teachers and money.

Appointments of teachers should be in the hands of a school head and his or her staff, the final chapter says. Sub-committees of the school's governors would choose senior staff.

One-third of the governors should be nominated by the local authority, as well as a majority. Another third would be drawn from the staff of the school, drawn from teaching and non-teaching. There should be one or two parents on all schools, representatives of secondary schools and one or two pupils in the case of secondary schools.

"The governing body should concern itself with appointments of staff, dismissal and suspensions of pupils and in an advisory capacity with the right to call for reports on the curriculum of the school."



## HE may be left in the lurch

from Paul Moorman

Higher education should not assume that it would automatically benefit from the next upturn in the economy, Mr. Gerry Fowler, Minister of State at the DES until last weekend's Cabinet reshuffle, warned here on Wednesday.

In a keynote speech to a major OECD conference on institutional management in higher education, Mr. Fowler said that investment in the tertiary sector in the boom period of the 1960s had been based on unrealistic expectations.

Politicians had now realized this and would be wary of committing resources again to higher education on such a scale. They no longer believed that investment in education provided a solution to social problems which had their origin outside the education system.

Instead, he said, higher education would have to accept that government money might, in future, be channelled as a priority directly into housing, welfare and employment programmes.

The more obvious danger, he added, particularly in the United States, was that higher education did not provide "the panacea to social and cultural problems that some once seemed to see in it."

In a period of retrenchment, universities should concentrate on their fundamental role, said Mr. Fowler.

"Those engaged in higher education could usefully spend a higher proportion of their time explaining to children still at school what are the educational and career opportunities linked to their proposed degree courses."

"I would suggest that this approach avoids the crudity of oversimplistic manpower planning, while demonstrating the will of the higher education system to meet the manpower needs of the economy as best it can."

Earlier this year Mr. Pardoos tried to find out how the department measured the efficiency of the education service and its productivity. "I received the astonishing response that such things were considered immeasurable," he said in a letter. "Now I find that this is not the only thing that is considered immeasurable."

Even a fairly simple aspect of educational efficiency such as the number of employees involved in administering the service is also unknown to your department. I am beginning to wonder whether your department knows anything at all about the efficiency of education.

"It is, after all, presiding over the expenditure this year of some £6,000m of public money. That is a lot of cash to be throwing up into the air."

Lord Donaldson said in his reply that the statistics did not distinguish between administrators and other staff like school cleaners and cooks, although it was known that a very small proportion — perhaps 10 per cent — were clerical and administrative.

In any case, even if the figures were available, they would not be comparable because there are now 105 local authorities, instead of the 162 before local government reorganization. "While I fully share your concern to see that resources are used in the most effective way, I cannot agree that £6,000m is merely being thrown up into the air," he said.

## Half-fare for students

Members of the National Union of Students will be able to travel to college by rail for the start of the autumn term for half fare. For the first time since the student railcard was introduced two years ago it is already available at £6.50, in NUS 'travel' shops. Previously students could buy the card only after arriving at college.

Also, for the first time the card is available to students up to the age of 30. The previous limit was 29.

## Swedes call off strike as 'guests' get jobs back

from Mike Duckenfield

STOCKHOLM

British and American teachers at the Anglo-American School in Stockholm, Sweden, have ended their two weeks' strike over union reorganisation and the renewal of teachers' contracts.

"I hope that the success of the Open University will lead us to more generally question that doctrine. There, almost no material that issues from the universities can be said to be the work of one man alone; and most of the teaching is done by other than those who have prepared the teaching material."

A collective agreement on working conditions, previously resisted by the school, is to be signed between the board and Sweden's largest teachers' union, Sveriges Lärarförbund, which represents most of the 25, mostly British, teachers.

This will mean the end of the present one and two year contract system by which the school has made use of an Anglo-Swedish tax agreement to recruit cut-price staff.

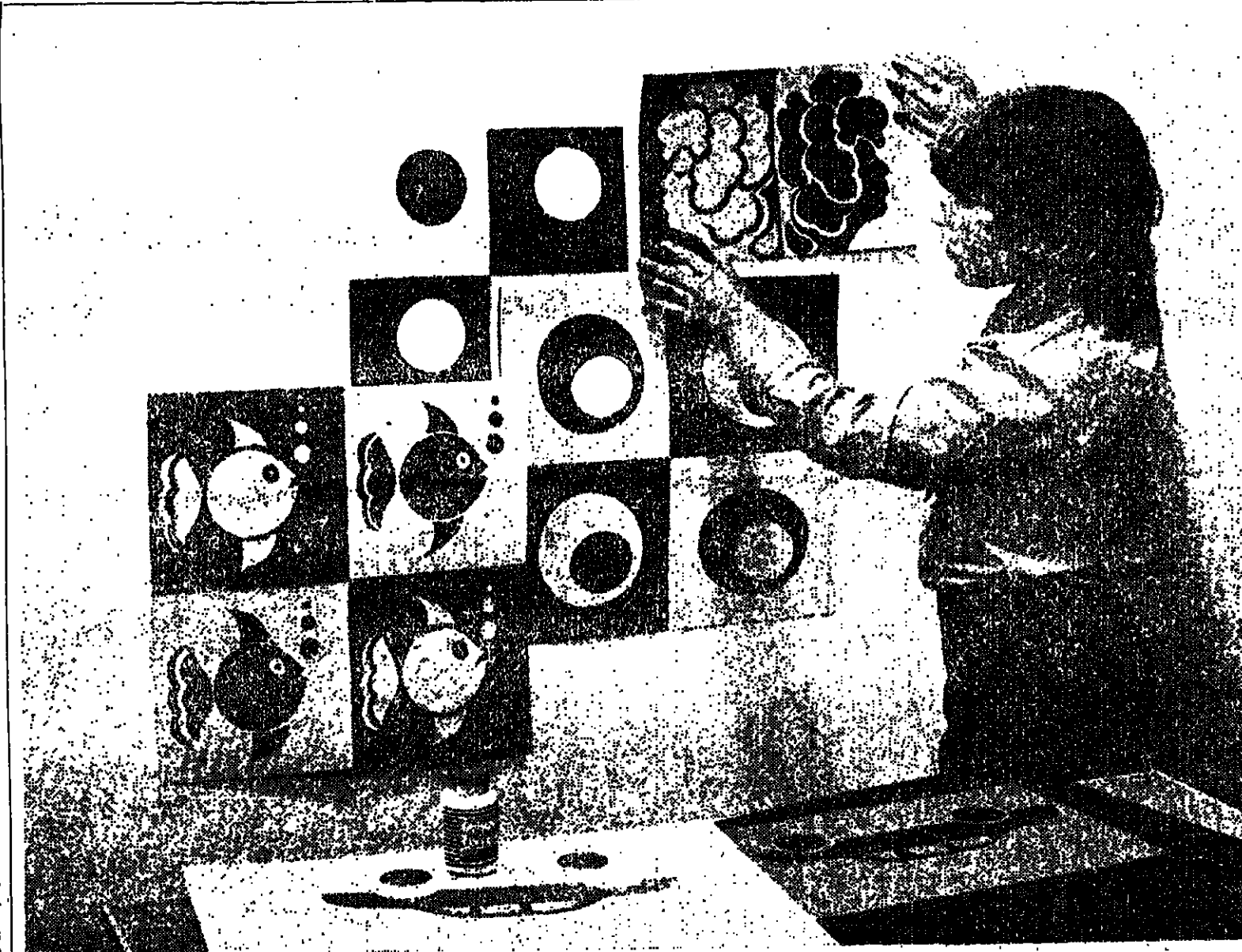
The tax agreement allows guest

teachers and researchers working in Sweden for not more than two years to be exempted from tax. At the end of the two years the school had generally not renewed employment contracts so as to avoid paying higher salaries.

In future, members of the union working a certain number of hours in one year will have to be offered at least the same amount in the following year or be paid equivalent wages. This ties in with a Swedish law on job security passed two years ago.

The two English teachers whose contracts were not renewed at the end of the last school year have been reemployed and this year's three recruits, two from Britain and one from the United States, who were to take their places, have been guaranteed continued employment.

The strike and seven weeks' boycott on new staff by the Swedish union had been supported by the National Union of Teachers, which had joined in attempts to stop British teachers being recruited to the school until a collective agreement had been reached.



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# Myths demolished by report on the 16-year-olds

About half the first group of RSLA children were truants at some time during their extra year at school, according to an authoritative study published by the National Children's Bureau last week. But only a quarter said that they would definitely have preferred to have left school at 15.

The study, of almost all the children born during one week in March, 1938, is the most accurate picture of the immediate effects of RSLA ever likely to be produced. This same group of 16,000 children (and their parents and teachers) came under a similar detailed scrutiny when they were seven and 11.

Work is now in progress on comparisons between the three sets of findings. And the NCB is hoping to follow their sample right up to adulthood, marriage and childbearing.

Although the 16-year-olds' experiences of school and attitudes to education form a large part of the study, the researchers also looked at the children's health, family life and social life.

The findings go a long way to demolish myths about young teenagers being bored and lethargic or aggressive and inattentive. They emerge as remarkably conventional.

The findings also provide an arsenal of ammunition for both sides in the educational war. The figures on truancy are likely to be particularly controversial.

One of the main difficulties arises over the definition of truancy, the report says. This partly explains why the teachers, parents and children gave conflicting answers.

The teachers considered that only a fifth of the children had played truant to some extent during the previous year, and one in 12 were hard-core truants.

The parents were even less aware of truancy. Only three per cent said their children were regular truants and another ten per cent said they did so occasionally.

Parents were also asked if they had found it necessary to keep their child off school in order to help at home, to which 12 per cent replied that they had. "This may not have been considered truancy by the parents but may well have been included by teachers in some cases," says the report.

The most dramatic evidence came from the young people themselves. Asked "Have you stayed away from school at all this year when you should have been there?", 52 per cent said that they had.

"Can this dramatic figure be accepted in any sense as an accurate estimate of truancy? This

really depends on the children's interpretation of our question. At question, some may have taken it to include absences due to illness or other legitimate reasons," comments the report.

"Some indication of the validity of this figure can be obtained from a further question which was put asking for the children's reasons for staying away. We cannot yet analyse this fully, since it was possible to indicate more than one reason.

"However 20 per cent of all those completing the questionnaire said that they had stayed away because they were 'tired up with school', 10 per cent because they 'had to help at home', 12 per cent because they 'wanted to do something special away from school', and 23 per cent for some other unspecified reason."

Because this group of children was the first to be affected by RSLA, parents and children were asked about their attitude to it.

But as table 1 shows the teachers felt that the great majority of parents took some interest in their children's education.

Over-concerned about the child's progress, expecting too high a standard

Very interested 33 37  
Showing some interest 29 32  
Interest little or no 19 17  
Can't say 17 13

The study also reveals that corporal punishment is still widespread in schools, although the figures include Scotland and Northern Ireland, its use may be less common in England and Wales.

The most common reason given by parents for wanting their child to leave school was that school was not doing them any good. Eight per cent said that the child could have taken a job or started some kind of training, and only 3 per cent mentioned financial reasons.

The report also provides valuable information about the academic standards of this group, many of whom have come in for heavy criticism from employers.

English teachers were asked whether the children were able to read well enough to cope with everyday needs, such as reading newspapers, notices and so on. Only 1.6 per cent of the children were definitely classified as functionally illiterate while another 0.2 per cent were virtually so.

Maths teachers were asked a similar question about the ability to do the sort of calculations used by an ordinary shopper. In this case 2.6 per cent of 16-year-olds were judged to be innumerate, and another 0.2 per cent fell into a grey

area. The teachers were also asked to classify "better" progress according to their academic abilities in different subjects. In maths they estimated that 11 per cent would be capable of an A level pass, 20 per cent an O level or CSE grade 1, 33 per cent were doubtful CSE grade 1, and as many as 17 per cent were judged to have no ability at all in the subject.

The children emerge best of all in the English ratings. Here the teachers thought 16 per cent were capable of an O level or CSE grade 1, 33 per cent a CSE grade 2 to 4, 11 per cent were doubtful, and only 1 per cent were completely hopeless.

In modern languages and to a lesser extent in science and social studies, relatively large numbers were considered unlikely to pass any public exam.

The pupils were also asked to rate themselves and these findings more or less bore out the ratings given by the teachers.

Says the NCB: "For each of the young people in the study teachers were asked whether any special help within the school was being given.

"First, they were asked about help being given because of any 'educational or mental backwardness'. Seven per cent were said to be receiving some such help, but for two per cent this was said to be no more than was needed. For a further 2 per cent teachers indicated that no help was being given, but such provision was desirable.

"In general teachers do not seem to share the often-expressed concern for special provision for 'gifted' children. Just 0.4 per cent were said to be receiving some help because of educational or mental superiority. For only a further 0.2 per cent was such provision considered desirable.

"Five per cent were reported as receiving help because of behaviour difficulties and this included 2 per cent for whom this help was said to be not as much as needed. The proportion not receiving help, but whose teachers thought it was testable for this reason, was 3 per cent.

The teachers also reported that in the case of 44 per cent of the 16-year-olds, neither parent had visited the school to talk over their progress.

The National Children's Bureau finds that teenagers are remarkably conventional. PHILIP VENNING reports

## truancy

Whether the description 'truants from school' applies to the study child on the basis of behaviour in the past twelve months?

1. Replies by teachers

Applies somewhat to 12 per cent  
Certainly applies to 8 per cent

2. Replies by parents

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

3. Replies by pupils

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

4. Replies by teachers

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

5. Replies by parents

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

6. Replies by pupils

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

7. Replies by teachers

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

8. Replies by parents

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

9. Replies by pupils

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

10. Replies by teachers

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

11. Replies by parents

10 per cent had done so occasionally  
3 per cent at least once a week

Asked for their opinion, half the 16-year-olds thought that corporal punishment should never be used in school. Over a third were against detention, just under a third against reporting the child to his parents.

In general, the young people were not particularly enthusiastic about school and were positively hostile to homework. Nearly a third said that they did not like school, and 13 per cent did not take their school work seriously. But a majority did not feel that school was a waste of time and were willing to get on with their work and help their teacher some of the time.

The parents were much happier about their children's time at school. Only eight per cent were completely dissatisfied—the main complaints were about discipline and the claim that their children were not being stretched.

Ninety-three per cent of the 16-year-olds were in maintained schools, 59 per cent in comprehensive schools, a quarter of those in comprehensive schools were in purpose-built schools; another quarter were in moderns, and a fifth were in former grammar schools. Two thirds were in schools with less than 1,000 pupils and three quarters were in coeducational schools.

The researchers also asked the headteachers whether the lack of some building or equipment limited the work of the school. The lack of adequacy of sports facilities, and equipment for commercial subjects emerged as the chief shortcomings. But for at least a third of the children the school was considered up to scratch.

Nine out of 10 children had had some sex education and some careers teaching. Two thirds had

decided on what job they might do. As they were in their final year of compulsory education, the children were shortly to be faced with a decision as to whether to leave school at the end of the year. Sixty-two per cent of those young people said that they were likely to leave school at the age of 16. Seven per cent thought that they were likely to leave at 17, and 23 per cent foresaw being in school until they were 18 or more.

Only a small minority of 16-year-olds were judged to be suffering from behaviour difficulties, between 35 and 50 per cent were described as, at least sometimes, being irritable, worrying and fussy.

Outside school almost all the young people watched television and over a quarter said that they never read a book out of school.

There has been considerable speculation recently about smoking and drinking by teenagers. One third of these sixteen-year-olds said that they smoked, and most of these only moderately. Of course it is difficult to predict whether they will continue into adulthood.

"Almost half said that they had an alcoholic drink in the previous week and in the same period about one fifth said that they had been in a public house for a drink."

"Minor illness was also quite common. In the previous year, nearly half had been off school for one week or more for medical reasons. As would be expected, colds and flu accounted for the largest proportion of these, but other, certainly uncomfortable, conditions had been experienced by sizable numbers."

The study also sheds down the popular idea of a generation gap. The majority of 16-year-olds seem to get on well with their parents, most of the friction occurring over their clothes and hair styles. Virtually all the teenagers planned to get married—generally between 20 and 25—and the majority planned to have only two children.

Three per cent lived in houses with no inside lavatory and two per cent with no hot water. One in three had to share a bedroom and eight per cent had to share a bed.

Philip Venning, National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley St, London EC1, E2 00.

## 'Tax petrol to pay for school buses'

by Frances Stadlin

Many families can no longer afford to send their children to school, says a report published this week by the Child Poverty Action Group on the cost of bus fares.

The group recommends that there should be free school transport and that 1.6p on the price of a gallon of petrol would pay for it. In a national survey, it found that children all over the country were either walking long distances to school or not going at all.

Some parents in supplementary benefits were paying up to a fifth of their entire income on school bus fares. In some authorities they were sending their children to school late and telling them not to take part in after-school activities in order to take advantage of cheaper travelling times.

CPAG found some parents who were unwilling to let their children walk or bicycle to school because of the danger of traffic and the number of assaults by dogs and humans.

The present ruling is that local authorities must provide free fares for children under eight who live more than two miles from school and for those over eight who live more than three miles away. Under the 1944 Education Act, L.A.s are allowed to meet any pupil's "reasonable" travelling expenses.

In its survey, CPAG found that some children using the same bus stop had to pay up to £5 a week for their fares while others were completely subsidised. It also found that the cost of fares and the existence of concessionary schemes varied greatly throughout the country.

Last year, the Department of Education and Science suggested that each local authority should fix a uniform charge for school fares as a proportion of the adult fare over a distance to be decided by the Government. It said that local authorities should pay for transport only if the journey or the special needs of a child made it necessary.

CPAG report opposes the introduction of a flat rate charge (under which the DES estimates, a quarter of all school children would qualify for some relief). The system would work as badly as it has with school meals, it says, and families would be claiming benefits that will label them as poor.

The administrative task of sorting out who qualifies for relief would be expensive and time consuming, and CPAG doubts whether extend-

ing local authorities' discretion (to decide, for example, what proportion of the adult fare the child should be, or how and why a child should be subsidised) would benefit families.

Local authorities can already assist with reasonable travel expenses but in practice have mainly limited their help to handicapped children. In working out school transport systems and concessions, it says, local authorities are likely to be influenced by financial and bureaucratic considerations than by a family's need.

Discretionary concessions of any kind are also likely to be an obvious target for expenditure cuts. CPAG claims the DES proposals would hit poorest families hardest. The Department estimates that the average cost of a return journey would have to be 14p to keep expenditure at the present level. One authority in the survey reckons that parents can only afford between 5p and 10p.

If a national or local charge is introduced at 14p those parents who do not qualify for relief will have to spend 70p a week on fares and 75p a week for meals for two children, and the report says: "Their family allowance will be exhausted by just two of a variety of items which they have to provide for their children's compulsory and free education."

A spokesman for the DES was unable to comment on the report this week, but referred to the statement in the House of Commons last month by Mr Fred Mulley, former Secretary of State for Education, that there was no national transport policy. The AMA's working party on the subject had stopped meeting until the Department of the Environment produced its report on concessionary fares.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that although it was not satisfied with the present system, it could not be improved until concessionary fares for school children had been examined as part of national transport policy. The AMA's working party on the subject had stopped meeting until the Department of the Environment produced its report on concessionary fares.

The Association of County Councils said this week that it preferred not to consider the subject in isolation from a public transport policy for all.

Taken for a Ride by Jo Tunnard, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 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## Science diary

by  
John Maddox

### Maybe an albatross brought the drought

With the great drought now behind us, no doubt speculation will once more become rife that there is another Ice Age around the corner.

It may, therefore, be of some value if I report the outcome of several conversations with climatologists and meteorologists in the past two weeks, mostly in the United States (where there is less of a general conviction that the weather should be for all time fixed). Briefly, there is no means of knowing whether the ups and downs of climate in the past few years are more than the statistical variations sensible men and women should expect. And, for the time being, there is no basis on which the future of the earth's climate can be foretold.

The speculation that there may be another Ice Age on the way seems to stem not so much from observation as from the recognition that the climate of the past 10,000 years is indistinguishable from that of earlier intervals within an Ice Age which has lasted for at least 1.5 million years.

The diagram shows how the volume of permanent ice on the surface of the earth has fluctuated over the past million years, as inferred from the fluctuations of the proportions of oxygen isotopes in deep-sea deposits. The present relatively warm period is represented by the tiny sliver of the diagram at the top.

It is a matter of judgment whether the diagram is taken to suggest four or six previous interglacial periods like the present. And like a series of random fluctuations that one can reasonably argue as the problem of what the future climate will be is simply a matter of chance.

On such a basis it is possible to calculate that the chance that a new glaciation will set in during the next century is something like 1 in 500. The chance that the next century will see the beginning of another "Little Ice Age"—the period of intense cold between 1400 and 1800—is something like 1 in 25. It remains to be seen whether those who would predict the climate will ever be able to do more than call the odds as bookmakers might.

Everything hangs on finding some explanation for the climatic variations of the past for relatively minor fluctuations such as the Little Ice Age as well as for the Ice Age as a whole. My impression is that nobody has a theory worth taking seriously—which is not for a minute to suggest that there is a shortage of candidate theories.

First, there is a group of theories which attribute climatic fluctuations to external influences—clouds of dust filling the solar system, variations in the output of heat from the sun or the variation of the distance of the earth from the sun, and of its inclination in the plane of its orbit, caused by the gravitational influences of other planets. The last of these theories was originally put forward by the Russian Meteorologist, who called it the "Milankovitch" theory, who later showed the earth's orbit would be influenced by planets such as Jupiter.

Theories such as these would be more convincing if those who believed in them were prepared to change the laws and make some tangible predictions about the future. All of them have the disadvantage that the effects which they rely on are too small to be sufficient explanations of the persistence of the Ice Age.

the surface of the earth for periods of 100,000 years or more. Some of them have the added disadvantage that they are not explanations at all, but invocations of chance.

From this almost aesthetic point of view, perhaps the most satisfactory theory of the occurrence of alternating warm and cold climates within the Ice Age is that which supposes that the gradual accumulation of ice in Antarctica will eventually be followed by a sudden slumping of the ice cover, with the result that a vast amount of sea ice appears suddenly, and that for years or even centuries afterwards large quantities of solar radiation are reflected back into space, robbing the earth as a whole of some of its warmth. The trouble with this theory is that nobody of stature appears to find it plausible.

This is why, as it seems to me, the essential problem of climatology is to explain in terms of the earth's atmosphere and oceans the persistence of certain patterns of climate over months, years and sometimes centuries. As for the Ice Age as a whole, there is a simple explanation—an unusually cold winter in the Arctic will leave more sea ice the following summer when more radiation will be reflected and lead to a colder winter... and so on.

The trouble with this argument is that it provides no mechanism by which periods of glaciation can come to an end. In any case, it is probably an over-simple argument—it does not allow for the influence of clouds on the system as a whole.

At the other end of the scale, the persistence of droughts such as that of the past year in Britain is a phenomenon without explanation. Perhaps it was just a 1 in 500 freak, but there are also ingenious people trying to correlate long periods of persistently uniform weather with the presence of bodies of cold (or warm) water in certain of the oceans.

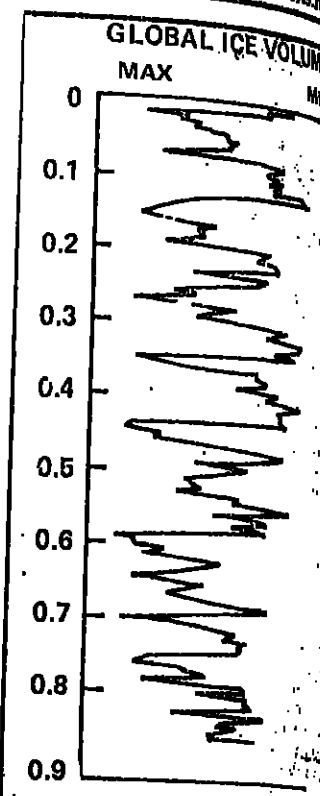
At the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, in California, some people think that the British drought may be a consequence of a patch of cold water in the north-east Pacific, just as the Russians are inclined to blame their drought in 1972 on a similar patch of cold water in the northern Atlantic.

None of this, unfortunately, will make sense until somebody explains why. The prospects are not bright. You might think everything would fall nicely into place if only meteorologists would construct larger and more accurate models of how the atmosphere behaves and then programme a suitably large computer to carry out appropriate calculations.

At present, computer weather forecasts are good for 24 hours or at most a week. But there are inherent mathematical limitations to what they can accomplish, which themselves reflect the physical nature of the origin of weather patterns. Even quite small disturbances of the flow of air over the surface of the earth can grow to be quite large cyclones or anticyclones within a week.

The trouble is that it is in principle impossible to tell which disturbances will grow and which will die away. The standard joke is that a seagull's wing flapping is an albatross that does the damage.

So the problem of calculating the persistence of climate is that of calculating the effect of a seagull's wing flapping.



The last million years

calculating such things as the temperature in the course of a year without getting caught up in the details of weather forecasting. At the present time, those who calculate the course of climate variation have no means of allowing for such things as the presence of clouds above the surface of the earth.

The influence of ocean currents on the development and persistence of weather patterns is not understood and there is even doubt as to the amount of solar energy reaching the atmosphere and the surface of the earth—and even about the more fundamental question whether the amount of energy reaching the earth is exactly in balance with the radiated away again.

I suppose these huge uncertainties explain why the climatologists themselves have in the past few years slipped into the habit of warning us all of the fearful consequences of unforeseen climatic change. And given signs that since the 1940s many parts of the northern hemisphere have been cooling, it is natural that the more scary of them have been predicting another glaciation around the corner.

This is why it is reassuring that the most careful analysis so far carried out of the temperature changes in the past 75 years by Dr H. van Loon, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, in Boulder, Colorado, has now shown that the cooling of the Arctic has usually been compensated for by warming of middle latitudes, or that a cooling of the ocean surface has usually meant a warming of the continents.

Hitherto, it seems, most people have been misled by looking for signs of climatic change in the daily weather at one place. And, as drought notwithstanding, I am going to stick firmly to the view that there is not yet convincing evidence that the climate is at present changing, let alone a sign of how.

## Their handicap will not be mentioned

by Diane Spencer

Westoning Manor, a mock Elizabethan house set in 40 acres of rural Bedfordshire, is now the home of 48 severely mentally handicapped children and adults.

The house is owned by MacIntyre Schools, a charity started in the 1950s by Kenneth Newton-Wright of the Royal Marines and the father of a retarded child. He saw there was a need for a community to provide lifelong care for such children.

After five years' planning, the charity bought Westoning Manor in 1959. A house in an eight-acre estate 17 miles away in Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, was acquired three years ago and now houses 26 people. For a time the two establishments were run mainly on parental enthusiasm, but by July, 1975, the charity decided a more professional approach was needed, so the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children took over the administration.

In the meantime, the charity had collected enough money to start building a small hamlet of wooden houses in the grounds of Westoning for the handicapped to live in.

groups cared for by house parents. Eventually it hopes to build more hamlets in the ample grounds.

Princess Anne was one of the benefactors and gave MacIntyre half the money from her army wedding present. Several army charities sponsor 16 places at the school. The latest house was opened last week by Sir Dennis White on behalf of the Sultan of Brunei who donated a substantial sum "in response to an army benevolent fund appeal."

Mr Harry Neal of the NSMHC, in charge of the schools' administration, said his society had altered the shape of things. At first, one of the houses was used as a special care unit for the very severely retarded, but NSMHC decided not to bunch them all together. "We thought it better to dilute them around the place," he said.

Instead of Wingrave and Westoning developing on similar lines with all ages living together, children will go to school at Wingrave until they are 16 and then on to Westoning. "But there will be a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, especially as the



Individual attention inside St. Helena's House.

glass-covered swimming pool at Westoning is in popular demand", he said.

Education and training will continue after the age of 16. "The rest of the world says that the severely retarded can benefit from education and training but they do little about it," said Mr Neal. "It intends to convert an old barn into a workshop so it can produce top quality goods under its own label. The chairman

of MacIntyre Schools, an eminent industrial designer, has experience and advice to give.

Mr Neal claims that the MacIntyre Schools are different from other village settlements because they accept the very severely handicapped. When they do start to produce their own goods, they will not sell them on sympathy and no mention will be made of the handicap. They must be sold on merit.

## No hope in cut price work

The social services should make children their priority, says the annual report of the Personal Social Services Council, published last week.

There is little hope for preventative work when the scale of spending on the social services is so low, the council adds. For every £7 spent on education only £1 is spent on social services.

The intended growth rate of 2 per cent announced this year is higher than for some other public services but is likely to lead to a deterioration in standards. "Moreover, unless money can be spent on preventative work as well as basic services, 'incalculable problems are being stored up for the future'."

The principle of joint financing between social services, education and housing should be explored further, says the council, because many demands on the social services are the direct result of decisions made by other departments. Planning between central and local government and voluntary organizations is also necessary.

The council welcomes the Government's proposal in this year's consular paper on priorities to give local authorities more freedom to decide how to spend their money. One consequence of this will be a variation in standards throughout the country. This is undesirable but unavoidable, says the council.

The council, which is financed jointly by central and local government, was set up in 1973 following the Seebohm Report. Its job is to advise ministers on policy and to give information and assistance to all involved in the personal social services.

Personal Social Services Council. Report 1976. Brook House, 2-16 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN. Price 45p.

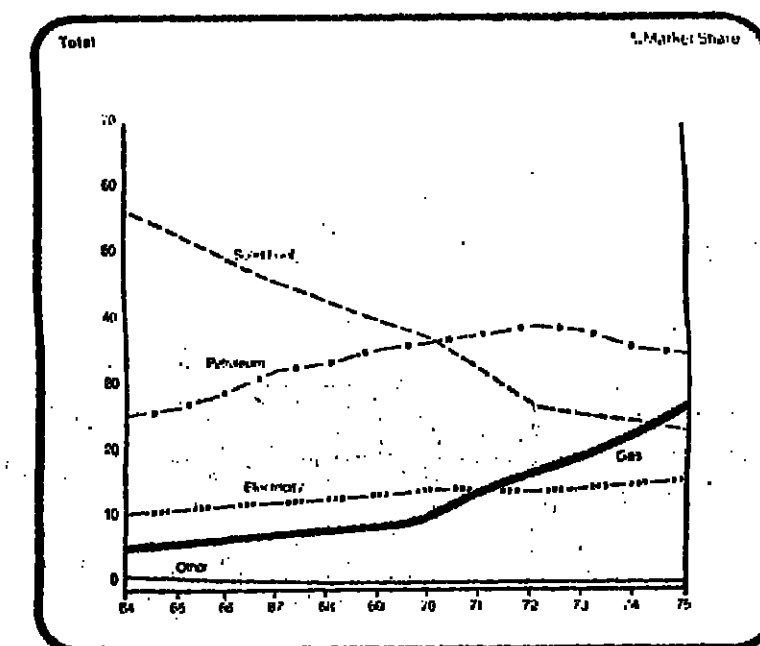
## Unions are 'failing the jobless'

The teacher unions have failed to give a lead in the campaign against teacher unemployment, says a Communist Party pamphlet published this week.

The National Union of Teachers in particular is criticized for not supporting student occupation of colleges last May and for not teaching classes of more than 30. Ultra-left students are also criticized for wanting to form local action committees instead of working within the National Union of Students' own democratic structures.

Into Action: the campaign on teacher unemployment. Communist Party, 16 King Street, London, W.C.1. 10p.

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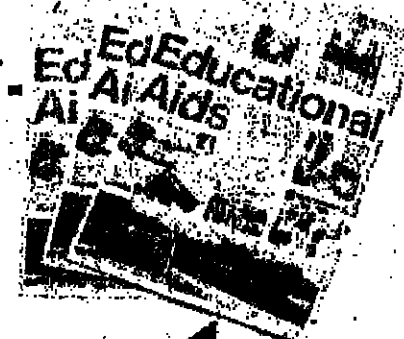
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## Scandal for school

Patricia Holland looks at how the media became part of the message in the popular press's reporting of the William Tyndale affair

The first mention of William Tyndale Junior School in the national press was on July 2, 1975. A short article in *The Times* was headed "Teachers refuse to let managers into school classrooms for inspection". That evening the *Evening News*, under the rather more provocative headline "Pop teachers ban managers in class", began: "Pop music blared from a classroom at William Tyndale Junior School today as the headmaster at the centre of a who's-in-charge row told his school managers to 'just leave us alone'." The "story" was launched, but how did this domestic row, which by July 1975 had been bubbling on for well over a year, suddenly turn into "news"? Why, at this time, did it become something the newspaper-reading public would read about?

Part of the answer is made clear in paragraphs 740-744 of the Auld report. The press was actually invited to write unfavourably about the school by one of the parties in the dispute—the school managers. It was a deliberate tactic in their battle with the teachers. July 2 was the date of a crucial meeting, and the managers felt publicity would help to put pressure on the LEA. From the start, the reporting was not simply giving information about the affair, but was itself part of what was going on. It was not "news". Rather it was argument, and intemperate, biased, polemical argument at that.

The managers had no difficulty in getting the press to join in on their side. The *Evening News* obliged on July 11 with: "Is this a school, or is it a cation at William Tyndale is that two out of every five junior pupils have been taken away by their parents. . . . From the beginning the press, and particularly the popular press, was partisan and against the school."

When the teachers came out on strike in September 1975 the newspapers were ready. Over that month a public picture

of the school was built up, and gasp of catch phrase, a shorthand for well as among the less informed. "We don't want a William Tyndale here," they would say. Glancing the popular press for September-October last year it is not difficult to see why. How could we overlook eye-catching as "School of shame" (*The Sun*, September 23) and "Raps school of shame" (*The Sun*, Oct 16).

The papers reported that inspectors had been to the school and found "Pupils aged nine and 10 . . . unable to spell simple words, use a ruler or a compass more than a few sentences" (*Evening News*, October 15). But no one who spent any time in an inner London school will be particularly surprised at the only those who spent £3 to buy Auld report, and read it as far as

graph 818, who learnt the news about the news. In fact the inspector's report of October 8 was provisional, hedged about with reservations because of the unusual circumstances of the inspection, and was never intended for public consumption. It was released to the press by the managers, again as a deliberate blow in the battle.

Once more the press was used as a weapon, and once more it was a willing weapon, not only because of its well-known love of scandal and tendency to exaggerate, but also because the popular press has pronounced views on education. The opinions are rarely spelt out, but are summed up in a few instantly recognizable catch phrases—"indiscipline", "increasing violence", "left-wing teachers", and "falling standards".

The *Evening News* on September 15 carried a piece by the "27-year-old non-union teacher who was suspended after writing articles about 'indiscipline'", called "Where I think our schools go wrong", and on the same page was "The dangers teachers must face", warning us that "School indiscipline, assaults on staff, vandalism and violence are reaching alarming proportions". The *Daily Mail* on September 1 declared, "State schools at the bottom of the class—because they're not winning (sic) places to Oxford and Cambridge". The *Daily Express* began the month with "Back to school:

black marks all round" (September 9) which linked "falling standards" with "attacks on teachers", and so on. This was the far from neutral background against which readers of the *Express*, *Mail* and *News* formed their opinions about events at William Tyndale.

So from reading these newspapers what impression did the public get of the teaching there? What has the majority of the population, with no inside knowledge, learnt about the teachers' ideas, about what they were trying to achieve and how? The first story in the *Express* just about summed it up (September 23) with "Parents have accused teachers of indoctrinating their children with left-wing politics and have condemned the standards of teaching". The *Sun*, under the headline "Teachers walk out at left-wing school row", told us that: "Teachers have been accused of letting the standards fall and teaching left-wing propaganda". In the *Mail* it became "extreme leftism" and "lack of discipline". In all these papers the teachers came across as alternatively muddle-headed incompetents and highly organized subversives.

The "extreme leftism" accusation let readers know that such people should not be taken seriously—just look at the way "extremists" are depicted in cartoons. Casual readers of newspapers, which

after all most of us are, may be forgiven for assuming that left-wing politics is inextricably linked with low standards and incompetence, and that teachers who hold such views are "progressive", which is just another way of saying "unable to maintain discipline". The leader in the *Express* on September 25 began: "How are we bringing up our children? There's no doubt that a minority of trendy educationists would like to bring them up to destroy our society, live by their socialist parrot thoughts, despise God and abide by Marx." How's that for impartial writing? After a resounding "Sack them all" the *Express* rounded off its column with a "Talking point for the day: the future is the most expensive luxury in the world. Thornton Wilder". We won't bother to talk about education, of course. So much for the *Express's* standards.

The papers listed various complaints against the staff of William Tyndale, including noisy classrooms, "teachers smelling of drink after lunchtime pub sessions", children not scoring as high as they might on reading tests, watching the Derby on television, playing draughts instead of learning to read and write, and thinking that literacy was of "doubtful value". They then documented the magical change that took place when the supply teachers moved in. Suddenly children were well-behaved, stopped

sweating, and learnt to read. Those with no other source for their information became scornful of the school of "progressive" education and "left wingers". They did not need to look farther to discover what "progressive" education meant, or why people described themselves as "left-wing". It was enough that these were linked with "Pop music blaring from classrooms" and "low standards". Several papers saw the affair as an expression of "Parent power"—of teachers against parents.

With this background, it is not surprising that when the Auld report was published in July, 1976, *The Sun* said it contained "What every parent knew by instinct from the outset" (July 17). The paper crowed over "The head who couldn't cope" while the *Mirror* again discovered the "School of shame" (July 17). A scapegoat had been found which explained everything.

But what do these papers mean by standards? If it is so important for children to learn to read, what are they expected to be reading? Will it be *The Sun* on teacher unemployment—a picture of a naked woman, caption "Bled and bored"—or will it be biased, ill thought-out, sensationally written reports of conflicts at local schools? What are your standards, you self-appointed guardians? Literacy is of doubtful value if this is what we are offered.

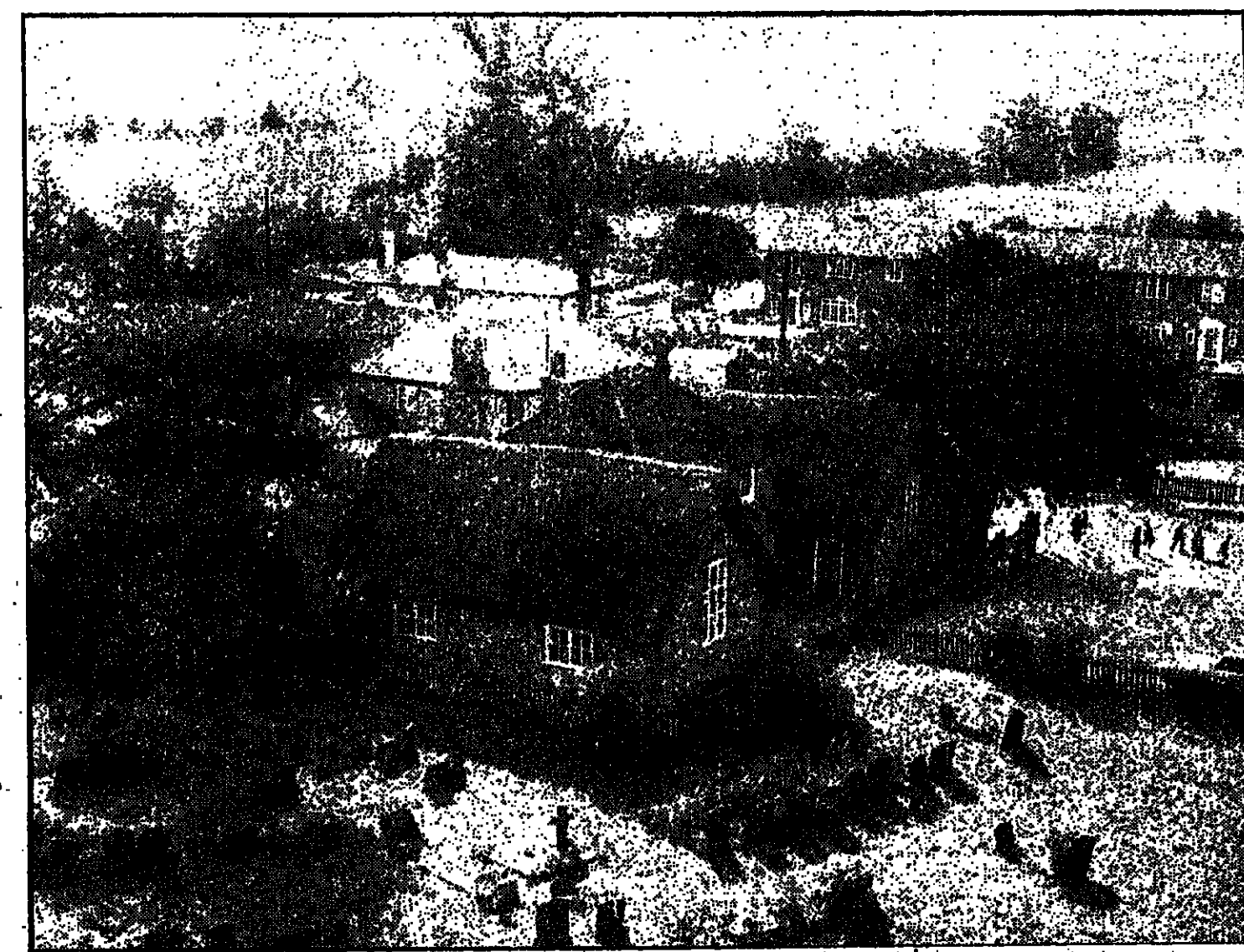
Much of the parental anxiety inevitably focuses on their children's transfer to secondary school. Are they suitably equipped after their exposure to all these modern methods? How will they cope at a school 10 times as large as Lewknor, many miles distant from the village? Such fears are not eased by the kind of rumour that sometimes scurries through the village: a recent one suggested a special class was set aside for Lewknor children at the nearest comprehensive—though in reality a couple of children from the village had at different times simply received remedial help, along with other children from other villages.

"It's twice as big as our climbing frame", estimated one five-year-old, in describing Icknield School, the 700-strong comprehensive in Watlington to which a large majority of Lewknor children go. By 11 he is likely to have gained a more life-size picture. One of the school's staff is responsible for liaison with the primary sector, spending one morning or afternoon every week visiting the feeding primaries. The Lewknor children who started this month at Icknield will have been to the school at least twice before, spending one day sharing a timetable with what was then the first year.

The head of Icknield, Tom Horrocks, says it is difficult to talk about any distinctions between children from different schools once they are settled in. "There's certainly no evidence of lower attainment among Lewknor children", he says firmly. John Coe makes the same point in a different way. "Lewknor is a fine preparation for secondary school. I admire the children's study skills, their willingness and ability to learn. They have a wider contact with adults than most, and this pays great dividends in their personal growth. As for standards, I see no advantage for children who go to larger primary schools."

If many in Oxfordshire believe small schools can offer at least as much to children as larger institutions, others do not see it that way. By chance that the future of Lewknor and another 62 of the county's 158 village schools was getting a hard look from some of the authority's officials. Yet a few days before, the council had agreed that only marginal savings could result from the closure of village schools. There was apparently a good deal of support for their continuation, and only two schools, whose numbers were likely to drop below 10 by 1980, were formally put under review.

Given the swift and hostile reaction to the unexpected news, not least from the chairman of the education committee, the closure threat may have receded. When and if the financial crisis passes, Lewknor and other village schools setting the pace may be allowed to argue for their existence on educational as much as on cost-effective grounds. Only then will it be clear how many actively endorse John Coe's view, that small schools may after all be the schools of the future.



It is no easy job to convince parents that such relatively intangible ideas are workable, especially since many of them instinctively recall their own schooldays, when subjects were subjects, progress could apparently be more easily measured, and "we all sat in rows in one place". Mervyn Benford admits that some parents are still on a knife-edge between apprehension and respect: even in a small community like Lewknor, school can loom as an alien place. It is partly to combat such anxieties that he sends parents a steady stream of information sheets "for your folders". These keep parents up to date not just with special events, but also with the school's ideas about learning.

Yet these friendly and informative bulletins, and the ease with which the teachers are able to chat with parents in the village street or even in their homes, never completely bridge the gap between home and school. One mother from a neighbouring village claimed to have

heard that "you don't teach reading at Lewknor". But not all parents who get a closer look are won over to the school's methods. Of the mothers who come in regularly to help with needlework, cooking, pottery and music, one found the atmosphere "a trifle too relaxed. The arts are fantastic, but at nine you need to be more efficient, especially little boys. Quiet is a bad thing, but I'm not sure. Children will work harder if a friend sitting next to them is doing better. I think more time could be spent on basic skills, and history and geography could be kept a bit more separate—they're a bit of a mess at the moment."

Yet many more parents, some of whom have only minimal contact with the school, spoke warmly, even aggressively, of the children's responsible attitude to work, and of the teachers' ability to "catch a child at the right time". "They're marvellously motivated to work here", said one mother. "If my boy had

been at that other school, I'm sure he'd have been a dunce." Another, speaking of the more doubting parents, commented: "If they don't understand, they should come and see."

Mervyn Benford takes a pragmatic line on the expectations of parents, trusting to their common sense in the long run and welcoming particularly their ideas on their own children's schooling. He says he's willing to try any reasonable idea, as long as there is scope for reviewing the new practice, and parents do not expect him automatically to apply it to other children. A couple of years ago he introduced a certain amount of tables and spelling lists into the children's week. "My feeling was that, in order to survive, I would have to bend a bit to nice but uninformed parents who didn't understand how children learn." Today these "prewar" elements seem to fit without fuss or discord into the more subtle and fluid approach of the current Lewknor staff.

## Familiarity breeds learning

Schools as well as teachers are under threat in Oxfordshire, Jonathan Croall visits one of the small village schools whose future has been questioned

"I was convinced social arrangements had to come first, that nobody should be bived off. The children should belong to all the teachers."

It's this kind of conviction that has enabled Mervyn Benford gradually to transform the educational experience of the children of Lewknor since he came to their village school as head nearly six years ago. Today Lewknor is not just a regular stop for foreign teachers travelling the English primary circuit: it also practises family, or vertical, grouping to a degree which is rare—though not unique—even in Oxfordshire, well known for its pace-setting achievements at primary level. And now that, as with other village schools in the county with fewer than 75 children, Lewknor's long-term future has been queried, its ability to remain sensitive to the development of individual children, while maintaining the kind of standards demanded by parents and secondary schools, is likely to prove crucial to its survival.

Lewknor is the first village on the left as you travel north along the M40 into Oxfordshire. The school, only a cack-crow from the motorway, stands between three traditional village landmarks, the church, the post office and the pub. Its two brick and flint classrooms, built in 1836 for £142, are separated by a small schoolhouse, currently occupied by one of the teachers. The charm of the building—its small scale, its thatched roofs, its wooden fence—is undeniable, though the working conditions seem less than ideal. Yet until recently it was not just the appearance of the school that provoked comparisons with Flora Thompson's schooldays a century ago in "Lark Rise" (Juniper Hill) across the other side of Oxfordshire.

"It was nothing but tables and chairs and desks" is how one mother remembers the school in the late 1960s. "Every time the children started term they'd find a new teacher in charge of the infants." Mervyn Benford describes what he found on arrival as "prewar", recalling a stock cupboard bulging with arithmetic tests. "In that first year I was groping, but I had an instinctive feeling that the old system was wrong."

His first aim was to bring down the barriers between the children, who were conventionally marked off as infants and juniors, and taught strictly according to age. He began by mixing up the age groups at dinner time, hoping to prevent the bullying which had previously frightened some of the younger children away from school. After a sample of terms he extended the idea to the class

rooms, creating the family groups which remain the basic unit for learning today.

Lewknor has about 60 children, drawn from a cross-section of families living in and around the village, and two teachers other than Mervyn Benford, who spends most of his week working with the children. For Alison Kirtland, now in her third year at the school, it was a first teaching post. "I had reservations about family grouping to begin with", she says. "But now it seems an ideal way to work, especially in a village school. It's a natural extension of family life."

Certainly the classrooms have a cluttered, lived-in feeling, redolent as much of home as of school. The walls, window ledges and other surfaces teem with the children's work, an almost hapless abundance of creations and discoveries which contrast with the controlled ostentation visible in some primary school displays. Yet many homes have at least one room where you can escape from family life. When Oxfordshire's chief education officer dropped in last Christmas, he asked in vain for the head's office and the staffroom: work or talk places just has to be fitted into the corner of a classroom.

This unavoidable fluidity in the physical set-up ties in neatly with the school's approach to learning. The children start their day in family groups of 20, deciding among themselves and with their teacher how to organize their time. Though members of any one family are normally split

up, friendships across ages are already established, since more than half the children live in the village itself. Work-sharing seems to follow without strain, with children apparently untroubled at working with others four or five years younger or older.

Reading is one of the obvious areas in which such cooperation can work, but it can extend across all activities at one time or another—particularly where children are constructing, or working with any of the animals to be found in various corners of the school. "I don't make a point of forcing it to happen all the time", says Diana Scott, Lewknor's third teacher, "but they do all benefit socially by working this way. The younger ones perhaps benefit most in learning terms, but the older ones also gain a great deal of confidence and skill."

John Coe, Oxfordshire's primary adviser, supports this view. "Family grouping has been a teacher-initiated project of the individual teacher. We've certainly encouraged the idea, talking with teachers about how far shared activities can stimulate learning. But it's no good doing class teaching across a wide age-range: you simply hit the middle. When it works well, it allows much more prolonged contact with a child. The more able get their stimulus, while the teachers have time to understand and deal with the problems of the less able."

For a lot of the time the children pace themselves, recording what they've done each day, approaching another child for help where a teacher is not immediately available, or may lack first-hand experience of the activity or problem.

Yet one hazard of family grouping lies in its very flexibility, in which children are encouraged, irrespective of age, to join in any activity they feel capable of tackling. "We try not to restrict the younger children to infant activities," says Alison Kirtland, "but in some cases valuable infant games or rhymes do get overlooked, because you don't like to stress the fact that they are infants."

Inevitably some activities don't lend themselves to the family arrangement. For small group work the children tend to gravitate to their own ages; while for more specialized activities, such as music or physical education, they split into the more familiar 5-7, 7-9, 9-11 vertical groups. "But from the first they become accustomed to working at times on their own, to moving round the school rather than being locked into a relationship with just one teacher. In an ordinary school? They only relate to their own age

group", said one approving parent. "I'm from here they're better equipped, secondary school; they're more able mix. And when they first start, younger ones are really welcomed by older."

Though the children are allowed to plough their own furrows a lot of time, the teachers keep more than a close eye on progress, particularly in mathematics, writing and reading. They also try to intervene where children are using their generous amount of free choice time, but they try to remain sensitive to the diversity of needs of the children. "If they've fallen behind I justifyable reasons, that's OK", says Diana Scott.

Mervyn Benford is even more emphatic about teachers' attitudes to children's progress. "Judged by the kind of criteria employed by Neville Bennett, our children might not be thought to be 'working' a great deal. But children work in the minds; and in classrooms where they are not allowed to wander, they wander their minds instead. It's a recipe for disaster to force them in something they can't yet cope with."

He is also a great believer in the principle of transfer of training. "If children can find success in, say, an art or a craft they will in time, and often suddenly flower on the verbal side, and then in mathematics. A breakthrough at the emotional level can promote learning progress: it's often the final defeat of timidity that sees a child surge forward."

Though he is a fervent advocate of children initiating their own learning, and of teachers being patient in giving them time to overcome initial failures, Mervyn Benford is thoroughly alive to the expectations of the subject-dominated secondary sector. "Children who later have to come to terms with GCSE have got a concept of history by places like our graveyard", he says. "My family group are moving in two or three around the neighbouring churchyard, plotting the changing fashion of tombstones. 'There will be people later who'll want to call it history, or art, or mathematics, or some such label. What the children are doing now is building up ideas about collecting and recording information, and developing an awareness of the past. These are the best key into later on. I suppose they've abandoned the formal curriculum, but there's a curriculum of experience of stimuli."





# The almighty certificate

R. P. Dore,  
whose book *The Diploma Disease*\*  
is published this  
week, deplores the 'qualification  
escalation'  
bedevilling our educational  
institutions

Mark Twain could afford to say he had never let his schooling interfere with his education. He lived before the age of the almighty certificate. In the Missouri of his day jobs could be found on local newspapers by virtue of a good nose for scandal and a decent English style. He did not have to produce a degree or high-school diploma as evidence of adequate schooling.

Today it would be different. What the Americans call "credentialism", the tendency to make all life-chances depend on pre-career educational qualifications, has become a common cause of all industrial societies, capitalist or socialist.

Britain has held out against it longest. Only two or three decades ago it was still getting half its engineers via the apprenticeship, night-school, mid-career-qualification route rather than by university degree, pre-career-qualification. The apprenticeship route is still open in Britain for such professions as accountancy and architecture.

Yet the rising tide of credentialism is not to be gainsaid. In British career guides at the turn of the century librarians had to have a "love of books"; journalists "plenty of adaptability, energy, tact and a good constitution". By the 1930s the entries begin "Educational requirements..."

The levels of education required for any given profession have a tendency to rise. If the Institute of Brewing decides it will raise entry requirements for its training courses from five O levels to two A levels, the Worthingful Company of Spectacle Makers will follow suit.

It is not an adequate explanation of this trend that our civilization is so much more complex these days—though that is the explanation which the education industry has a vested interest in maintaining. Are our graduate journalists notably better journalists than their predecessors who began their professional apprenticeship on local papers in their mid-teens? Libraries are certainly more complicated affairs today than they used to be, but it is not obvious that librarians of the older generation are less able to deal with those complexities than their longer-schooled, "better-qualified" juniors.

The rationality of the qualification-escalation process lies in the self-interest of professional bodies to raise the status and salaries of their members, combined with the general increase in educational levels, with growing affluence and the fact that the school system does not in a rough way as a filter.

Because of selection, there is at least a statistical probability that those who get further in the system are "better" over a relevant range of abilities commonly judged relevant to work capacity. It is not so much what people learn as the talents they show in learning it which count.

Rational from the point of view of employers and professional bodies these processes may be. But the consequences for education are deplorable. More and more people are staying in school long after their appetite for learning has been sated, solely to qualify for jobs they are intellectually fully equipped to learn already. There has been an increase of the instrumental motive, of learning to get "pieces of paper"—a consequent ritualization of the schooling process as the examinations which decide who gets certificates assume greater importance; and more and more memorization for formidable regurgitation.

Once the student is in school, to become a self-respecting citizen, or to obedience to some pharisaical duty of



*"If our educational systems  
suffer from the scourge of the certificate,  
those of the  
Third World are firmly in its grip"*

everyone to develop their minds and characters, or to get the knowledge to do jobs. More and more schools are now simply places where one "takes courses" for the certificates that get jobs. The schooling process is increasingly dominated by the business of qualification, at the expense of the business of education.

It is small wonder that his proposal to abolish schools should have made Ivan Illich fashionable in the early seventies. Unfortunately, the Illich message is too much a product of the late sixties, the heyday of Consciousness III, too obviously geared to the preoccupations of the radically inclined American youth, who used to flock to his Cuernavaca centre for the heady experiences of a course of dequantification therapy. It provides no practical solution to the diploma disease.

His "informal learning networks" might work for gifted, inquiring young people from middle class homes—the sort of person to take one of his examples, who can quickly learn Greek in preparation for a summer holiday, and has such high sociological curiosity that he can spend that holiday probing into

local politics. Like most individualist doctrines, Illich's is paradoxically elitist: it ignores the needs of slower learners, and the way in which, even for fast learners, a foundation of disciplined learning can be a precondition for imaginative and creative thought.

Above all, it ignores the important fact that school systems in industrial societies have a dual function—to teach, but also to select for differential life-chances—to do the job which hereditary succession used to do in pre-industrial societies. If schools are to be abolished it is not enough to think of alternative ways of performing the teaching function; one has to offer an alternative for the selection function too.

If we are to maintain present levels of productivity and present standards of living, the alternative must be at least matching abilities to jobs, and in making that match, seem fair—in providing a justification for the differences in prestige and income and power which the differences in occupation entail. On these matters Illich is silent.

Illich's individualistic system of informal learning networks is even less

attractive for the developing countries where the qualification disease takes much more virulent form. If anyone worried about the backwash of examination-orientation on British education, him go, say, to Ghana, where all schools have blackboards, where all many days remain before the examination, and where a fresh young teacher who wanders from a strict topic of the science lesson to an educational point—linking learning to life as he had been taught at the training college—is liable to be stopped in his tracks by the shouts of his pupils declaring: "Non-sylla, non-sylla." The name of the game, they will tell you, is CPE: chew, pour, pass and forget.

If our educational systems suffer from the scourge of the certificate, those of the Third World are firmly in its grip. The confident predictions of the 1950s and 1960s, when we were transplanted little replicas of Oxbridge or Keble, Manchester Grammar School to the former colonies, are beginning to sour.

The Later in history a nation by its "drive to industrialize" the worse the diploma disease becomes. Japan, by using its process of deliberate domination modernization in the 1930s, has it worse than Britain. Sri Lanka, starting in the 1910s, worse than Japan, beginning a decade or so later, worse than Sri Lanka.

There are some obvious reasons. The later development starts, the more dominated it is, the more bureaucratic the greater the insistence on formal educational qualifications for any job. The more dualistic it is, the sharper contrast between the "modern sector" where everyone gets regular wages, salaries, has some security and a relatively decent environment, and the rural sector and poverty of the traditional rural sector.

The greater the emphasis on education as a good thing, the faster the expansion of school systems, which grow more more rapidly than modern sector opportunities. Hence the phenomenon of educated unemployment, the desperate scramble for qualifications, and the more totally schooling is dominated by examination, the more intense concern with fairness of marking systems, with constant pressure towards objective memory-testing forms of exam. Add this, the poverty of resources at the World schools—the lack of equipment, which forces complete reliance on chalk and talk; add the culture gap between Western-style modern-sector-oriented school learning, and the culture of the home which enhances the tendency to see schooling as a matter of material standard examination packages, and it will be obvious why Third World schools should seem efficient enough at producing bureaucratic formalists, but not the kind of creative, energetic people with sense of social purpose who can contribute to the development tasks the countries face.

There is little future in attempting to cure the diploma disease merely by altering curricula and the form of exams. For such reforms within the school system to succeed, there must be a change in the qualification system itself. After the schooling links to job opportunities, one can change the motives for the nature of learning, and consequently effect on the minds and characters of schools' products.

Why shouldn't administrative servants, for instance, start off as 15-year-old clerks, and be selected for further education if they prove of administrative calibre? Can we not find a mode of selection other than competitive academic achievement tests—aptitude tests, lotteries or a combination of those with minimum-qualifying achievement tests—anything which stops cramming for the major form of competition for life-chances.

R. P. Dore is a fellow of the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. *The Diploma Disease* was published yesterday by Allen & Unwin (£5.95; paperback £2.50).

# The fading of the fires

David Wright  
on the poetry of  
W. H. Auden

W. H. Auden, *Collected Poems*, Edited by Edward Mendelson, Faber 1970, 571 pp., £12.50

Auden began his poetic career with a bang. Besides, amazing his and towering high spirit, the opening poem of *Poems* (1930) had the authoritative authority of another *Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*—a new angle of perception, a new clipped rhythm, a new handling of words. Auden has a decade been so accurately predicted. *Poems* on *Both Sides* came in the thirties with a combination of the best of both worlds, with Auden's first book, the *Collected Poems*, published in 1930, the date of his last major poem, *The Shield of Achilles*.

Turn to your copy of the book and you will find the original, when Auden looked to the roots of English in *Prufrock* and the *Battle of Malden*. As with *Prufrock*, the result was something new in English poetry; a new rhythm, a new feel of vision. Poems became possible objects of the new technological environment, the subject of a new kind of poetry, to be ignored (not looked at?) by poets (except to deprecate as Eliot did) became a subject for celebration. All this is now common place: Sir John Betjeman, Philip Larkin, and later Douglas Dunn, have continued so long and so thoroughly, the traditions which Auden first added to the poetic map, that the surprise and impact of his 1930 volume has been blurred or forgotten.

Appropriately, Edward Mendelson's careful and scholarly edition of Auden's *Collected Poems* was begun while *Poems* on *Both Sides* was written when Auden was only 21. As the poems are dated and arranged in as

near chronological order of composition as possible, one is able for the first time to track Auden's poetic development from beginning to end between the covers of a single book. Though there are lacunae, the early poems are left out; they will not, another volume. Also left out, alas, are the published poems that Auden selected from the first collected edition that appeared in his lifetime, which means that this book does not have a work like *The Poem* (written in September 1939).

All translated poems, maddeningly, have also been omitted. However, Mr Mendelson promises to give us "the excluded poems, and the early versions of revised poems" in a selection of Auden's early poems and verse to be published under the title of *The English Auden*, though it is not clear whether this will include Auden's translations, which are mostly late work and incidentally the receptacles of his best poetry after 1952—the date of his last major poem, *The Shield of Achilles*.

Turned to the covers of this handsome, not disjunct volume, the reader would have done so in a medical textbook. Auden was as proficient as he was prolific; he resembled Emerson and Kipling in this. There is scarcely a known metre in prosody form he did not handle with deft and dexterity, from old English alliterative verse to the caesura and sestina, from the classical to the modern. He was a superb technician and had a perfect ear. Probably no modern poet except Yeats, on his day, George Barker, can hold Auden at the top of his game.

One need do no more than point at "Let your sleeping head" "O who can ever hold his fill" or Gonzalo's recitation, and the Master and Bunswain's song in *The Sea and the Mirror*. Yet for all their formal perfection these famous lyrics of his maturity are a hark back, whereas, for their new rhythms and new use of language, the poems of the 1930 volume are a hark forward:

On Sunday walks  
Past the shut gates of work  
The conquerors come  
And are handsome

Though he believes it, no man is dead; He had to be called the fortunate, To bring home a wife in five long But he is defeated; let the sun All the time let the moon tell: His mother and her mother wait.

But one is left uneasy by the products of Auden's maturity, despite the wit, civilized intelligence, insight and energetic comedy of *Letter to Lord Byron*; the wide reading, humane feeling, responsible pessimism and rhetoric of the didactic *New Year Letter*; the cultural percepts, the poetic digests of Freud, Grouche, Kierkegaard et al. scattered through the almost always liminary occasional poems. For the poems are excessive; or it may be that behind a glittering facade of encyclopaedic and expertise, poetry is being evaded. The fact that in his later poems Auden rarely says anything may be a symptom of an explanation. Seldom does he offer any precise visual realization, as in *The Night Aid* that travels:

Past cotton grass and mountain border  
Shedding white stream over her shoulder  
... in the farm where she passes on one  
wakes,  
But a jug in the bedroom gently shakes.

There are few such vivid images in the later poetry. More and more Auden tends not to visualize but to comment, to talk around and about, so opportunely so cleverly and sometimes so wisely that one forgets whatever he is on about is not being looked at, not being seen: there is a revolving bookcase in a newspaper rack straddled between the poet and the reality he sets out to celebrate. Take the beginning of a poem entitled *Oxford*:

Nature invades: old roots in each college garden



Still talk, like agile babies, the language of feeling.  
By towers a river still runs seaward and will run,  
Stones in these towers are uttered:  
Satisfied still with their weight.

And so poets: civilized that. Nothing can be further from the impact of the direct visualization in one line of a Hopkins sonnet saying much the same thing on the same subject: "Poetry city and brachy between towers."

The fading of the fires may have had to do with the death of his mother in 1941. Perhaps Auden, who never really moved out of his upper-middle-class shelter, and towards the end of his life, with his precise disciplines and rituals, seemed to be turning into a lonely and rigid, well-man, protected himself too well.

But something died in him after *The Sea and the Mirror* (1942-1943)—that is to say almost exactly half-way through their *Collected Poems*. More and more rarely does the verse catch light, though it glimmers in passing, though its diction is periodically fertilized with a mix of dramatic phraseology, as in the last-mentioned exclamation: "Wise, homiletic, occasionally funny, at best it shrivels."

# A breeze from the fens

Shirley Toulson looks at  
three books on  
East Anglian rural history

*Life and Tradition in Norfolk and North-East Essex*, by Gervase Smedley.

*From Mouths of Men*, by George Ewart Evans.

*East Anglian Folklore and other tales*, by W. H. Barrett and R. G. Carr.

*Reveries and Recollections*, by George Ewart Evans.

The social historian who concentrates on East Anglia is fortunate. He has Thomas Penson's apt if dangerous late-nineteenth-century *Geography*, and the verses of Robert Bloomfield's *The Farmer's Boy* of the eighteenth century to guide him. Norman Smedley makes good use of these sources, and comes closer to our own time with *From Mouths of Men*, a century diary, and recorded conversation, with people who remember life and work before the First World War. In this way, he recalls across the years the daily lives and seasonal occupations of a region which has always been primarily agricultural.

People's lives are shaped a great deal by the tools they use; and, as the former director of the Museum of East Anglian Life in Norwich, Mr Smedley has a good understanding of the farm tools, implements and weapons that were in daily use; many of them provide the illustrations to this book.

George Ewart Evans, who still helps with many of the activities of the museum, under its present director, Mr Geoffrey Wilding, has long been loved for his books which reconstruct life on East Anglian farms before the agricultural processes were mechanized. Recently he has turned his attention more and more to analysing and describing his own methods of working as he explores his past, by making written records of the oral tradition of old cultures. He started this trend with the publication in 1970 of *Where Beasts Were All*, continued in *The Days that we have Seen* (1975); now with *From Mouths of Men*, he has provided the standard work for anyone who wants to follow his way of compiling social history.

To do this he has extended the scope of his work, going into the Wales of his childhood as well as using the East Anglian districts with which he is so closely associated. In this book he deals with life in small towns rather than in villages; and with commerce, industry and mining more than farming. But his methods are the same. He



reconstructs the past by introducing his readers to people whose active lives were spent in the harsh decades of the twenties and thirties.

Thus you'll meet William R. Ward (b.1878) bus driver of Aldeburgh who as a young man had the station horse bus; Wilfred Spence (b. 1891) and Anne Clabbe (b. 1893) who lived in the big houses in the last decades before the war; and some of the men who worked in the South Wales pits throughout the depression. Among them is the brother of one of Mr Evans's old school friends, who started to work in the mines on the evening of his fourteenth birthday.

Through all these reminiscences, the reader who wants to turn his own attention to investigations of the recent past is given useful guide-lines. As W. G. Hoskins has given us the clues, which can help us to interpret any piece of landscape we are con-

fronted with, so George Ewart Evans helps us to understand the reminiscences of the old people in the museum.

He welcomes the collection of oral history as an established and valuable art; and warns against the dangers of trying to turn it into an exact science, in which everything can be accurately verified, coordinated, enumerated and measured. He is adamant that history is about people and that in collecting his material the historian, who works with oral methods, must never let "no rules at all except the instinctive rule of courtesy and a particular accommodation to the speaker". How the notebook and the tape recorder fit into this framework the individual must decide for himself. Mr Evans uses both tools, but never in such a way as to reduce a meeting to an interview.

W. H. Barrett, the Norfolk born Fenland gardener, who died in 1974 at the age of 83, was 10 years old when he first started writing down the tales that he heard from old men about the days of their youth; but he was over 70 before he started to prepare his stories for publication. After the third collection of these came out in the form of *A Fenland Story*, R. P. Dore became so interested that he visited Mr Barrett; and the present book, for which Mr Barrett has done the illustration, was a result of that meeting. Here are stories of Norfolk wickets, gatekeepers and punchers, teachers and Jack O'Lanterns as the earth and the supernatural meet in the memories of old men.

# Unwelcome biography?

Rosemary Hanill  
on  
Mrs Gaskell

Elizabeth Gaskell: A Biography, by Winifred Gérin, Oxford University Press £5.75 19 812070 2

Friedrich Beer once wrote of Mrs Gaskell's life that it made her feel like talking to the sofa. Not, of course, through lady-like shock at any skeletons in the family cupboard, but through sheer exhaustion at the mere thought of everything this kind and charitable woman packed into her 54 years. This biography

certainly proves her point.

Mrs Gaskell led one of those luminous Victorian lives, that were truly Christian both in outlook and practice. She was not only a prolific writer—author of seven novels, innumerable short stories (including some ghost stories) and the biographer of her friend Charlotte Brontë—she was also the busy wife of a dedicated Unitarian minister in Manchester during the worst years of the Industrial Revolution, a social reformer, the devoted mother of four daughters and a constant and generous hostess to an ever-widening circle of friends. In the midst of all this, she managed to make several long visits to Germany, France and Italy, and at home met most of the major literary figures of the time.

So much for what she did. As to what



she was, she seems to have been a woman of rare courage, humanity, delicacy and honesty. Her only faults, it appears, were a tendency to morbidity and anxiety, and an occasional nervy for which on at least two occasions (the storm over the publications of *Ruth* and *The Life of Charlotte Brontë*) she paid dearly.

With such a woman and such a life as its subject, it is disappointing that this book, so carefully researched and detailed biography so rarely achieves real colour and

vividly. Mrs Gérin, the author, is well-known for her biographies of the Brontës; here she is altogether less at ease. Her work was not aided by Mrs Gaskell's sturdy opposition to a biography in her lifetime, and by the subsequent destruction of a number of her letters which might have thrown some helpful light on her relationship with her husband.

One of the most enjoyable sections of the book is the chapter on Mrs Gaskell's acquaintance with Dickens, who serialized the initial publication of both *North and South* and *Cranford* in his weekly *Household Words*. Dickens was altogether too flamboyant for her taste and taste, for his part, much too admiring and unguarded in his intractable disregard for the requirements of serial publication—punctuality and controlled length—drove him at times to distraction. "If I were Mr G", he exploded once, "oh Heaven, how I would beat him!"

The last word surely goes to Miss Pole in *Cranford*: "Well, Miss Mary, Mun will be won. Every mother's son of them wishes to be Sanson and Solomon rolled into one. . . . My father was a man, and I know the sex pretty well."



# Butterflies, caterpillars and ladybirds

Tony Becher compares some recent studies on curriculum

Knowledge and the Curriculum. By Paul H. Hirst. Routledge and Kegan Paul £1.50. 7100 7929 N. £1.75. 7100 7930 J.

Common Sense and the Curriculum. By Robin Barrow. George Allen and Unwin £5.25. 04 370073 N. £2.50. 04 370074 R.

Curriculum: An Introduction. By David Jenkins and Marten D. Shipman. Open Books £2.95. 7291 0047 2. £1.25. 7291 0042 1.

Designing the Curriculum. By Hugh Sockett. Open Books £2.95. 7291 0026 N. £1.25. 7291 0021 9.

Changing the Curriculum. By Harry Macdonald and Rob Walker. Open Books £2.95. 7291 0055 J. £1.25. 7291 0050 2.

Curriculum Evaluation. By David Hamilton. Open Books £2.95. 7291 0057 N. £1.25. 7291 0052 9.

Knowledge and Schooling. By Richard Pring. Open Books £2.95. 7291 0096 D. £1.25. 7291 0091 X.

You have probably heard the fable of the butterflies and the caterpillars—but in case you cannot call it to mind, let me summarize it briefly. Once upon a time, the secret garden of the curriculum was presided over by the butterflies. They tended it noisily, albeit in a rather distant and formal way. Their concern was to impose order on the untidiness of nature, to identify logical categories and lay bare the underlying structures. But because they always looked upon the garden from aloft, they failed

to notice what was happening at ground level. Indeed, at first, the garden was invaded by caterpillars. These were not at all impressed by the overall effects which the butterflies had worked hard to bring about; they saw things from a more earthy viewpoint. Their concern was with reality at close quarters, with the day-to-day activities and the routine transactions which gave the garden character. They ate their way steadily through any foliage which obscured their vision. The butterflies hovered about, angry but impatient; and soon the neat, formal garden was transformed into a flourishing but untidy wilderness. The way in which curriculum theory has become a matter for directly bitter dispute between philosophers and social sciences is tellingly illustrated by at least three recent books. Although they have barely distinguishable titles, they represent very divergent approaches.

Professor Paul Hirst is a dozen of the philosophical tradition. Even if he is not quite of the stature of such earlier giants as Rousseau and Dewey, he is undeniably a significant figure on the contemporary scene. His most recent book, issued last year, is a useful collection of previously published papers, together with three new essays, of which offer qualifications and developments of his much-quoted article (also reprinted here) on "Liberal Education and the Nature of Knowledge". It may be the threat posed by the upstart social sciences which leads him to imply that philosophy is some sort of last physics of the intellect ("Recent reconsideration of the concept of

truth... the present state of our conceptual mapping of these areas..."). Even allowing for an understandable defensiveness, however, one has to accept the validity of his own admission that the analytical categories of knowledge have only a very tenuous relevance to the actual business of planning and implementing a curriculum in a school.

The other exponents of the same general approach, Robin Barrow and Richard Pring, are both critical of Professor Hirst's stance, though neither ends up by offering a noticeably more functional framework for thinking about the curriculum. Dr Barrow holds that the choice of what knowledge ought to be purveyed is properly determined by utilitarian criteria. Dr Pring argues that it should depend on the pupils' developmental state and potentials.

But since each spends much of his effort in fencing off the cultural relativists with his left hand while keeping the epistemological determinists at bay with his right, there is little opportunity for either to get down to a specific discussion of curricular structure, content or approach. Both writers extol the virtues of common sense without giving evidence of possessing it, and both write with that faintly unattractive combination of non-sensuous smugness and bland self-importance which seems to be the stock-in-trade of philosophically inclined educationalists.

Though he is also a curriculum philosopher by origin, Professor Hugh Sockett has moved some way towards the social scientists' position. Unlike Hirst, Barrow or Pring—none of whom, as far as actual involvement with curriculum development at the level of either the individual school, the local teachers' centre or the national in-service training programme associated with "Man: A Course of Study"—a curriculum scheme imported from the United States. The less parodied in this leads to his philosophizing results in a more readable book. It gives a useful critique of utopian approaches to the curriculum, and also of the more recent cult of designing curricula through objectives. His own recipe for curriculum planning—namely to concen-

trate on piecemeal changes in the structure of curriculum assumptions—is unacceptable; but it is only a recipe in the sense in which someone wanting to cook a joint of beef might be advised vaguely to put it in the oven.

The remaining three books are firmly rooted in the concepts and methods of sociology, social psychology and social anthropology. All five of their authors have been directly involved in national programmes of curriculum development or evaluation. Where the philosophers' heads are in the clouds, their feet are on the ground. They are taken up as much with the realities of educational politics, intellectual allegiances and social interactions as with the changing nature of educational research.

David Jenkins, who has edited the Open Books Curriculum Studies Series, has also co-authored its introductory volume. The collection as a whole (which includes the contributions by Pring and Sockett) represents a neat exercise in book making: the ladybird books of teacher education, produced to a standard formula, each of a carefully uniform length (114 pages) at a common price in a more-or-less uniform pattern. The impression that they have been put together on demand, rather than as a result of each author having something urgent to write about, comes out quite strongly in Professor Jenkins's contribution with his collaborator, Dr Marten Shipman.

The same effect is noticeable, but not so distracting, in the book by David Hamilton. It is an engagingly written, and has a well-planned structure. A minor fault is that it is inclined to generalize a little too boldly on the basis of a few anecdotal instances, and to dignify the sometimes unintentional actions of a few individuals as a cosmic shift in thought. It does not say anything fundamentally new—but there is no strength in a curriculum technical review of the history and present state of thinking about curriculum evaluation. As such, it is certainly among the most useful volumes in the series.

One last note. The discussion by Barry Macdonald and Rob Walker of the problems and possibilities of curricular change is based on several years of careful and detailed case-study of a number of national

curriculum projects. It is argued, but high in its originality and importance. In short, it is essential reading for anyone who is involved in curriculum work. It is a book that any student on a graduate course on curriculum or any teacher keen to understand the sense of the curriculum movement, would greatly benefit from reading. On the debit side, it has a downright and conspicuous which I strongly suspect authors put on with the same leading intention as Hirst did his Gannex map. It could be argued that some of the events are given a sense of having at the time, I would agree, that there will never again be a large scale curriculum development programme. But the fact remains that this is a real substance in it.

Looking at the two rival camps in the light of their recent work, there is little doubt which has most to offer to practicing intending teachers. Although someone whose own desire to philosophy, it goes against the grain to acknowledge the superiority of another approach, I have to admit that philosophers of education seem to have little to offer to a problem as mundane as that of improving a school's curriculum provision. In their preoccupation to sort out and tidy up fundamental structure of knowledge and to articulate the underlying goals of education, they seem prepared to put aside such considerations as the effects on the external examinations; the sequences of the territoriality of subject departments; the duties of teachers; individuality and competence; and a host of other considerations that make sense of all those grand curricular designs. Immolated on the altar of the blinding light of logic.

It is to the social scientists, greater credit that they have mentored the everyday realities of education and helped us to see their complexities with greater clarity.

"Culture and the Classroom" by John Reynolds and Malcolm MacLennan is the sixth in the Open Books series, and will be reviewed shortly.

## Putting Humpty together again

Martin Fagg

A Short History of the Liberal Party. By Chris Cook. Macmillan £6.95. 333 12157 0. £3.95. 12628 0.

What would Mr Gladstone have thought of Mr Cyril Smith? Or of Mr John ("More-efficient-bastard-than-thou") Pardon, and his putting questions to the Liberal side of the Elystan Fields. Only the most humourless and fanatic Libs would deny the strain of force that keeps infiltrating into their current proceedings. Endearingly so: there aren't many laughs to be had out of the two fly-blown Colossi that flank them. The party will find little for its comfort in this brisk, statistic-packed scan of its twentieth-century messes. Mr Cook clearly thinks its prospects as bleak as its overall performance since the "Coupon Election" of 1918. Did She Fall or Was She Pushed? That is the question.

Some chroniclers of Liberal decline date the downturn in the party's fortunes way back in the 1906 electoral pact with the Labour Representation Committee. This truce may have helped the Liberals to their last great victory, but it also gave Labour its first decisive breakthrough at Westminster. Other analysts demur.

Alliance with Labour may, they

say, have been a Trojan Horse, but the walls of this battlement city were bound to come crumbling down with the luxurious rise of a mess artisan party. If the Libs were doomed anyway to be first squeezed in the left and then outflanked in the centre, the Aquilidian split of 1916 and its aftermath until 1923 can be seen not as the precipitant but merely the accelerant of an inevitable wasting.

Mr Cook, as in all his other research tools, crams in as much solid fact as possible. This volume's copious electoral data reminds one of how quickly the great Liberal were losing by-election seats all over the kingdom, and by the first of 1910's two general elections, the Tories had fought their way back to full parity in the House. A freak 1906 result was, in fact, a tors never to recur.

Even the statistics are bizarre. The Unionists, polling 2,463,606 votes, won only 157 seats. The Liberals, drawing merely two per cent more votes at 2,583,132, secured 375. They were thus the beneficiaries of the kind of anomalous distribution about which they have for long so loudly and understandably complained.

With the Lloyd George-Aquilidian rapprochement of 1923, the Libs might just have got back into business, but since then it has been

downhill almost all the way. It is difficult to see their ever reaching that magic breakthrough point of 25 to 30 per cent of general election support until they come to represent or at least be identified with some discernible major "interest" in the country. The 500 Nats have got "independence", but what is the equivalent Liberal rallying-cry?

Until they can find some equally simple and palpable "cause", the party must surely continue to be merely the receptacle of mid-Twentieth-century protest (for only it seems, during its last administrations and to ride existing hopes and frustrations. Though the fact that even some Tories are now flirting with the total Reform today, because it suits them) may justify a mild flutter of sympathy.

Mr Cook has read widely to produce this handy and trenchant digest of modern Liberal history. His description of John Wilson's book on Campbell-Bannerman as "unexciting" seems a little hard considering that its publication four years ago completely revolutionized the general view of the immensely likeable and grossly underestimated figure.

Not even their most ardent devotees would deny the Libs the courage needed to soldier on through long days of disappointment. It looks as if they're going to go on needing it.

## Early days

Lorna Ridgway on pre-school and infant teaching

Pre-School Education: Objectives and Techniques. By John McCreesh and Austin Maher. Word Lock Educational £3.25. 7062 3472 1. £1.95. 3473 1.

Five Made A People. By Vera Roberts. A. and C. Black £1.50. 7136 1624 5. The Pre-School Book. By Brenda Thompson. Sidgwick and Jackson £3.50. 283 58406 X.

Underprivileged Underfives. By Lorna Bell. Word Lock Educational £2.25. 7062 3459 6.

Teaching Basic Skills to Infants. By Susan Gloy and Deryl Frohisher. Word Lock Educational £3.25. 7062 3459 9. £1.95. 3450 2.

After a somewhat superficial account of the characteristics of underfives, McCreesh and Maher present a lively, cogent exposition of their main theme. Pre-school education needs clearly defined aims, they say, offering six statements of long-term intent which are then broken down into interim "objectives". Individual pre-school charts and profiles expound the objectives, like social adequacy, selective listening and problem-solving, with Yes/No answers and dates. They are mostly directed towards satisfactory adjustment and development, but the "respect for rule through play" is extraordinarily inadequate.

Doubts increase when they refer to pre-school achievements as "how children are to be changed", and also upon closer study of their recommended techniques. Follow-up questionnaires for parents (which for some would certainly obviate the objective of good home-school relationships) children are screened for potential, then given suitable educational activities. It is to the social scientists, greater credit that they have mentored the everyday realities of education and helped us to see their complexities with greater clarity.

The authors' position on "rationalized pre-school education" is very precise; many who agree with their principle of cultivating children's abilities would modify details of their procedures. By contrast, Vera Roberts's aims explore teacher motivation, responsibility and effort. She says that she is not providing answers, but her illuminating examples give very sound guidance. *Five Made A People* is a book for the thoughtful; it deserves to be read for its perceptive quality alone. Aspects of energy, literacy and numeracy are investigated, but the first educational "skill" for this author, lies in the child's approach to school.

She takes a sensitive attitude to evaluation and testing of underfives; her assessments of ongoing achievement place the reader solidly in the role of participant observer. Children, she considers, take longer than we think to give of their best. "Whatever he ought to be, if he isn't, he isn't," she says. One would feel thankful to leave any child in her able care.

For a general guide on the child aged two to five *The Pre-School*

book gives thorough coverage in a sturdy commonsense style which does not conceal the author's fund of experience and study. In striking contrast to those of McCreesh and Maher, her developmental sections are full of real children's aphorisms pour out. "Much of what a two-year-old can do depends upon what he is allowed and encouraged to do."

Writing unashamedly as the expert, Brenda Thompson directly addresses parent and teacher; her advice is well-founded. For her, as for Vera Roberts, education is "bringing out the best in a child". But this is not left to chance; appropriate teaching abounds. It is penetrating, stimulating and reliable stuff; each page offers ideas worth mulling over. As many parents who will be helped by this book will never read it.

Have we become desensitized to the idea of deprivation? Given dramatically improved circumstances, children can recover even from severe early trauma. But Lorna Bell shows how hopeless it really is for many mothers and their underfives, now suffering grave and permanent handicap. Her book is chilling in its cool appraisal of the horrifying details. Inevitably, she lists the multiple deprivations for whom the factors of social living, ill-health, poverty, lack of love, exposure to crime and vice, absence of toys, minimal adult dialogue and numerous other contributory conditions compound to produce life-circumstances sinister in their implications for the future. Deprivation can exist in caring homes: West Indian mothers work late; Asian mothers live isolated lives; in pedlars, even grandchildren discriminated against from birth.

Causal connections between stark deprivation and development are not laboured; the facts establish an irrefutable case. Insistently Lorna Bell underlines parents' needs. "Let us not forget the mothers," many of whom have had little real childhood themselves. The author's strategies for statutory and voluntary intervention are realistic. It is powerful writing; read it especially if you teach in urban areas, and do what you can. The future of these children is the nation's future.

After studying underfives, *Teaching Basic Skills to Infants* follows naturally. Teachers will be grateful to its knowledgeable authors for their straightforward expertise; it is one thing to know that children need individualized learning and quite another to arrange for it. Here stages of learning are meticulously analysed and a broad general advice is given.

Sixteen attributes are listed for readiness in reading, with suggestions for promoting it, for cultivating literacy to a high level, and for the interlink with instruction in writing and mathematics. The sheer quantity of knowledge which well-taught infants can master, without over-direction, is impressive. It would be carping to comment upon the good organizational section which, however, skirts the problem of timeblending all groups at skills together.

The message of this excellent book is plan, plan, plan: the copy-out line drawings illustrate how it can be done.

## Playing the game

Joe Benjamin

Play as Exploratory Learning. Edited by Mary Bell. Sage Publications £3.00. 8019 0668 4. Paperback £1.30. 8019 0179 1.

The Playtender's Handbook. By Bernard S. McGovern. Faber and Faber £5.25. 571 10643 9.

There are not many American books on the subject of play which are worth reading. *Play as Exploratory Learning* is an outstanding exception.

It is a collection of well reasoned and surprisingly jargon-free papers by practitioners who rightly see play within the context of society as a whole, and not as something self-contained. Individual contributors enable us to draw on the known history of play, from Greek and Roman times through to the studies of Gross, Huizinga and others.

Subtitled "Studies in curiosity behaviour", it should be compulsory reading for the growing army of British playleaders. Play derives from curiosity. "Can I balance on that wall?" "How far can I kick that ball?" "What is this, and I can use it for that?"

Play does not stem from an adventure playground where the structures are built by the play-leaders, where there is no variety, no sufficiency of alternative stimuli. Indeed, there can never be a sufficiency in this respect. Mary Bell's own chapter on "Defining a Cobweb" sums it up nicely. She concludes: "If play is to be understood it must, above all, have its own explanatory framework. It needs its own theoretical identity established as an outcome of serious study."

Bernard McGovern, on the other hand (and in spite of the title of his book), is a dedicated Games Organizer who seems unable to distinguish between play and games. Or is he? He includes in his book a poem of his own which should surely be memorized by everyone working with children. It, too, sums up what play is about. But the book itself does not.

For a start, it is not a "Play-leader's Handbook" so much as a book of rules. In this respect it cuts little ice. If you want to know how to organize a knockout tournament, small team games, rounders, Australian fly, scavenger hunts, five-a-side rugby, eight-a-side cricket, May Queen Festivals, gymnastics, wobbleboard and so on, or even playground recipes, this is the book for you.

When we look for play, however, McGovern is a self-confessed pragmatist. In an earlier book he stated: "It will not take long for you to realise that theory... seldom, if ever, works out... No theory exists giving the answer as to how children... can be persuaded to accept an adult." In his present book he ignores it altogether.

Seamus Hegarty and does not follow from the text. It comes over as the reflection of an ideological instinct rather than as a reasoned conclusion.

None of this would matter greatly if the work of the Centre was unimportant. However, this present volume amply demonstrates that this is not so. Methodologically and substantively it contributes a great deal to the study of deviant subcultures. The methodological perspective belongs within the participant observation family. This particular family has been a much-troubled one in the sociological enterprise and has spawned more than its fair share of bastards. The two pieces by Roberts and Butters are useful contributions to a muddled debate and help to clarify the position of participant observation in the methodological canon.

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## 28 Books/Economics

Andrew Robertson on four studies of inflation

**Inflation: The Price of Prosperity.** By Brian Griffiths. Weidenfeld and Nicolson 16.95, 297 p.

**A World of Inflation.** By Geoffrey Maynard and W. van Rijkelghem. Harmondsworth 13.50, 714 pp.

**Inflation in the World Economy.** Edited by Michael Parkin and George Zis. Manchester University Press £9.00, 190 pp.

**Economic Policy.** By P. J. Curwen and A. H. Fowler. Macmillan £10.00, 333 pp. £3.95, 333 pp.

You pay your money and you take your choice. And what a lot of choice there is in the four volumes represented. We have lived and are living through a time of unprecedented price inflation in Britain, and an inflation which is accompanied by high unemployment.

What is more, we also have zero or very low economic growth, which is not in theory a concomitant of inflation. Our economic policy makers are clearly baffled, because they can only resort to crude short term measures, such as job creation (inflationary but politically essential), higher interest rates, which are slow to take effect, and public expenditure cuts, which are said to be illusory and in any case well into the future.

Curwen and Fowler in their comprehensive and clear survey of economic policy are honest enough to say that so far economists have not found an answer to "stagflation". The Keynesian techniques were designed to resuscitate falling economies, to pull them out of depression and unemployment by public spending (deficit financing). Now we have deficit financing in the midst of inflation and wonder why the inflation goes on and on, and unemployment continues to rise. The answer in the last common sense must be that to create real jobs we need growth and we are not getting it.

Maynard and van Rijkelghem point out rightly that the employment level depends on growth and that rapidly rising prices prevent the private savings needed to generate the investment which promotes growth. Simultaneously

organized labour, stronger and better organized than ever before in most capitalist countries, tries to fight rising prices with wage demands which in turn lead to higher costs and prices. The old and controversial wage-price spiral, accentuated by the rising price of imports which no British Government can control. Justifiably or not, the corollary they pose is that countries with high inflation have adopted undemocratic systems of government, as in Brazil. The link between the social unrest and discontent brought about by high inflation, which tends to redistribute wealth from the poor, who have little or no real property, to the rich who have most of it.

However, these authors also fall short of finding an answer to the causes of inflation without growth, although they point to the Latin American economies which have enjoyed both. There are, of course, corrective policies, as described by Brian Griffiths, usually attempts by governments to control prices and incomes. The realists of the "the hopes and the realities" of British policies since 1948 when Stafford Cripps called for wage restraint and the upward trend was held at 2.5 per cent. By contrast, the Social Contract saw 21 per cent inflation and weekly wages rising by 25 per cent under the "contract". The most successful policies appear to have been those of 1966 to 1973, wage freezes which in the beginning held increases in wages to about two per cent but let them drift as high as nine per cent.

Neither price controls (which are not feasible without rationing) nor wage and profit controls seem to be workable because of the multitude of loopholes available to manufacturers and retailers. Monetary solutions to inflation are also vulnerable because controlling the money supply in order to be fully effective requires strict credit controls, including hire purchase, credit cards, bank loans and possibly even a change of control of a more stringent kind than at present exists.

Two years ago at the University of Manchester a conference was held under the promising title of "Inflation: its causes, consequences and cures". The proceedings were published in the title *Inflation in the Economy*, containing 12 essays, four of which are highly theoretical, say mathematical, and the rest are empirical and times rather specialized in their approach to one country (Sweden) or one general Scandinavian area, which has been particularly acute in Denmark, for example. Without exception, the authors of this group of essays reach the same conclusion: inflation is a disease, not a cure, and it is a disease which, like cancer, has a tendency to metastasize. Many of them also say that researches have only scratched the surface of the problem.

If this be so (and it appears to be), then the conference title is a little misleading. Apart from this, this collection of essays pitched at a level mainly for advanced students of economics, is a very good one.

Curwen and Fowler write more generally of suitable level consumption, and set schools of inflation theory in a dispassionate comparison. They also discuss the importance of these theories in the 1970s, which relate to price levels. Inflation in this setting of general economic policy (including regional and international policy) is easily understood, even if no final solutions may be drawn.

Brian Griffiths is also late in the policy implications of inflation, and makes the point that those who contend that the inflation rate in Britain of 21 per cent plus cannot be reduced are wrong, but that 70,000 to one million men have been caused a downward slide in their standard of living. Griffiths also points out that no one has the precise answer to this problem. Maynard and Rijkelghem appear to conclude a leading cause of inflation is the policy of higher wages, but the reality is that inflation is a result of many factors, and it is not possible to draw a simple line between inflation and its causes. Both books are eminently readable.

### In print

**The Coming of the Book: The Impact of Printing 1450-1800.** By Lucien Febvre and Henri-Jean Martin. New Left Books £12.00, 402 pp.

The modern intellect has been shaped by the printed book. Febvre and Martin's exciting book investigates this process by describing each stage of the book business from papermaking to reading habits. Readers should, however, be sceptical about the publishers' claim that this is unorthodox history. They may order these things differently in France, but in England books about printing have usually been more than histories of type-faces. They have also been histories of the book, the book-buying public and technical change and working conditions in printing and all its ancillary trades.

What Sir Frank Kenyon did for the study of reading in antiquity and Philip Gaskell, R. E. Dent and Marjorie Plant for the history of the English book, Febvre does for the book throughout Europe, including the Slavonic fringe. It ranks with Gaskell's *A New Introduction to Bibliography*. There is no higher praise.

Keith Hartling

**Among this week's contributors:**

Tony Becher is professor of education at the University of Sussex. Joe Benjamin is administrative adviser on community work at the Centre for Institutional Studies at North East London Polytechnic. Seanus Hegarty is a research officer at the National Foundation for Educational Research.

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Children's literature

## Three faces of crime

Rhodri Jones on adventure stories

**Murder on "The Canadian".** By Eric Wilson. Bodley Head £2.25, 370 pp.

**Play it Cool!** By Margaret Gore. Abacus £2.95, 200 pp.

**A Son of the Soil.** By Wilton Kaitiaki. Rex Collings £3.50, 860 pp.

The different forms adventure stories for children can take are well illustrated by these three novels. *Murder on "The Canadian"* is an example of the most basic form.

Tom and Diemar, travelling alone across Canada on the transcontinental train, become involved in a mystery. Their suspicions are first aroused by the man with a black attaché case handcuffed to his wrist. What can he be in? Then there is a murder, and Tom, emulating the heroes of his favourite books brings the criminal to justice—not without undergoing considerable danger himself.

Of course, the plot is preposterous, an excuse for suspense and escapism. This wouldn't matter so much if the boy heroes themselves were more believable and interesting. Unfortunately, they behave with irrepressible cuteness and are reminiscent of the children in Disney films and their most recent background of "The Canadian" plunging its way across the continent is not sufficiently interesting to compensate for this.

On the face of it, *Play it Cool!* might seem to be the same sort of story—a simple-minded adventure story whose sole aim is to amuse. Again, a group of children show how much more intelligent they are than adults by discovering a gang of thieves and organizing their capture by the police.

## Society and supernature

F. R. H. Du Boulay

**The False Messiah.** By Jack Gollancz. Corgi, 575 pp.

**European Witch Trials: Their Foundations in Popular and Learned Culture, 1300 to 1500.** By Richard Kieckhefer. Routledge and Kegan Paul £5.25, 710 pp.

Both these books deal with the belief often held by men and women that they may be helped or harmed, irrespective of their own rational activity, by supernatural powers. The resemblance ends there. Charles Gollancz looks back to the ages at the messianic ideal and defines his messianic as men (hardly ever women) who have a twofold characteristic: as men of power who will in some way conquer the world, and as men of suffering who must suffer for our transgressions yet will be ultimately victorious. From there he goes on to point out that messianic are exiles, physical or mental, who believe that they have been sent by God and who, of course, persuade others that they have indeed been thus sent.

The book is surely a piece of original thinking, let alone research, and it seems to be written on the assumption that messianism is sufficiently explained by its own sociology. We are reminded that messianic reject family life and ordinary social companionship, that they are fundamentally lonely, and that they promise heaven and earth to those who are wholly obedient but threaten the recalcitrant with dreadful fate.

Mr Gollancz surveys a vast landscape and picks out some vivid landmarks, but his historical telescope is a very odd one. The messianic furthest away from his eye are bigger than those nearer to him. Jesus of Nazareth has a stature unspokeable greater than that of Joanna Southcott or Charles Manson, now in prison for some disgusting murders. Obvious enough, but the book does not try to explain why. The writer happily goes on about psycho-pathology, resistance to technological change, the

role of women in a messianic circle, and so on. But since he is not concerned with the ideas held by messianic and their followers he can hardly draw a line between happiness and distress.

On the other hand, Dr Kieckhefer has given us a limited but scholarly little book, using original evidence from witch trials and helping us to understand the past by careful and ordered argument. In many societies witchcraft consisted in the belief that by incantations and ceremonies of various kinds you could alter the weather, hurt your enemies, make attractive women love you and bring about similar desirable consequences. All this may be called sorcery. The main theme is that when learned men started bringing sorcery to trial they were not long before their victims were accused of having made pacts with the devil and even worshipping him.

How then can historians distinguish between the beliefs of peasants and professors? Dr Kieckhefer argues it can be done by using direct and freely given statements in the records of witch trials, and rejecting, as inferior evidence, the testimony put into the mouths of the accused, often under torture, by their judges. If this technique is both possible and correct, then diabolism was a creation of learned minds which felt a need to explain sorcery more logically than simple villagers ever wanted or were able to do.

Educated people today presumably do not believe in sorcery, though they may well believe in a messiah. For this reason, a social study of sorcery is more rewarding than a social study of messianism divorced from its intellectual content. Sorcery can be seen as the documentary residue of folk medicine, local quarrels and fragmenting societies. It can be wholly explained on the historical level. This is why the book by Richard Kieckhefer is more enlightening than the one by Jack Gollancz.

## 29 Books/Literature/Society

### Shadowy types

Hilary Finch on a new edition of Henry Vaughan

**Henry Vaughan: The Complete Poems.** Edited by Alan Rindom. Penguin £4.00, 140 pp.

"Give him another by works a place," pleaded Henry Vaughan to his Creator about his own poetry in the mid-seventeenth century. Penguin, at least, have now answered the poet's prayer by giving him a place as the latest addition to their English Poets series—and not before time.

The definitive edition of his works, edited by L. C. Martin, was published by Oxford University Press in 1914 and 1957; at £9.50, it is the only complete edition now in print. This newly revised and annotated collection of the complete poems hopes to break new ground in unravelling "the host of Biblical allusions which enfold his work" and aims to make his poetry more accessible.

Henry Vaughan, Silurian (for so he called himself, after Tacitus's name for a tribe in his native Wales) wrote at the same time as Milton and Marvell, but has not, on the whole, been taken so seriously. He spent nearly all his life between the Brecon Boreas and the Black Mountains; critics and scholars have been quick to seize on his nature imagery, his vision of a prelapsarian "world of light", and to make the obvious comments as well as seeing him as a herald of nineteenth-century romanticism.

It is refreshing to find that this edition (apart from the blur) moves away from this limited reading to a closer textual examination which makes constant close reference to the sources of Vaughan's nature imagery. The annotations are not intrusive, since they come all together at the end of the text;

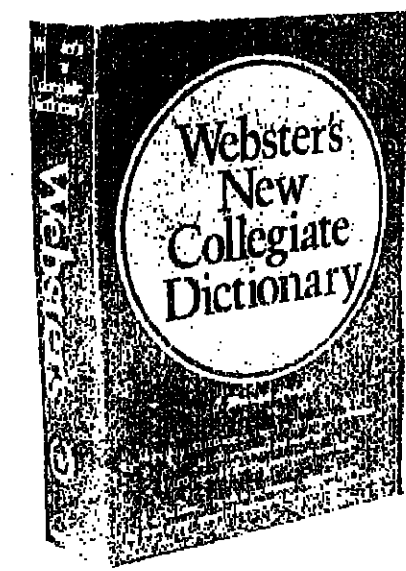
Biblical references are provided and cross-references, and content-purity usage noted.

But in some cases, clues within the poetry itself to the precise ways in which Vaughan uses these Biblical images are missed. To quote just one of many possible examples: in "Religion", the traditional typological (figurative) image of Christ as springing rock is given correct Old and New Testament references, but the poem's further extension of this into the water and wine of the marriage feast at Cana is ignored, and consequently, the sacramental significance is missed.

The editor states in his preface that "a serious reading of Vaughan involves an awareness of how he employed his Biblical sources". Since a typological reading of the Bible was most important to Vaughan and his contemporaries (especially to Herbert, who influenced him greatly) it is a pity that this has not been taken into account more consistently and thoroughly in these annotations.

It is a pity, too, that it was decided to omit the original illustrations from each set of poems. That for *Silurian*, Vaughan's most substantial collection of religious poems, is vital: the emblem of the sparkling flint depicted there is inseparable from the introductory Latin verse; together they say a good deal about one of the main underlying themes of the anthology.

Despite its disappointments, though, this new edition is attractive enough to bring the name of Henry Vaughan to the front of the bookshop again—and new converts (for there will surely be some) will find plenty of scents to follow up in the good select bibliography.



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## 30 Books/Technical

## Law and concept

F. W. Kellaway on engineering science

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Macmillan Education.

Texts emanating from the Schools Council Engineering Science project, based on Loughborough University of Technology, have been commended in these pages on several occasions. Attention should now be drawn to four more, in the same vein; but even more significant is the advent of a teachers' resource book.

The project itself began in 1970, with a primary aim of producing "stimulating and enjoyable" textbooks by adopting an engineering approach to the treatment of the physical science included in a wide range of A-level courses. The quality of the resulting books (now in double figures) was quickly acknowledged.

The texts have titles which are self-explanatory. Generally, their large pages carry two related sequences. In the upper half of the page is an account of engineering and scientific concepts, while the lower half contains physical laws and relationships with mathematical derivations, and supporting material of a technical nature.

A section of the book on thermodynamics may be cited as an illustration of the technique. The upper text carries a history of the internal combustion engine, leading to the operation of a four-stroke engine, differing ignition processes and an appreciation of efficiency. Parallel to this are notes on pollution and the standards physics of topics such as the kinetic theory of gases, Boyle's law, Charles's law and the gas equation.

All this is supplemented in the teachers' book by general references to engine cycles, and a detailed note about the performance of real engines and the need for the critical timing of the opening and shutting of inlet and exhaust valves.

The function and execution of the teachers' book deserves special praise. Throughout, it is emphasized that the resource book is not intended to be a definitive guide any more than the texts are to be regarded as a bible for a teaching programme, whether in terms of design, content, order or approach.

What we do have (to quote the introductory chapter of the teachers' book) is a series in which each text provides a considered treatment of the syllabus centred on the discussion of an engineering situation. . . . A thorough analysis by the teacher of the material in the books, followed by the formulation of a reading guide for the students, will pay enormous dividends. Such analyses and formulations must be highly individual.

Textbooks which "relate to student experience and interest," supported by a teachers' book which provides reasons why certain material is treated in the way it is, amplifies specific factors, and includes additional references and a comprehensive index, deserve to succeed.

A thought-provoking final chapter, in the teachers' book, on "practical work" considers the objectives of practical work, suggests how experimental investigations may be initiated, conducted and supervised, and deals with assessment, report writing and the vitally important issue of safety.

## Search for the elixir

R. G. Garnett on chemistry

Man the Chemist. By Trevor I. Williams.  
Priory Press £4.75, 85078 159 0.

Dr Trevor Williams is a leading authority on the history of technology; this is one of a series of volumes dealing with the history of scientific achievement over a wide field. It is an attractively produced publication and within its 50 pages there are 70 telling illustrations, making it admirably suitable for school libraries.

Trevor Williams provides an interesting survey of the beginning of chemistry applied to primitive needs of cooking, utensils and fabrics.

He then shows that the construction of the Aristotelian theory of elements, upheld for over a millennium, was not wholly negative—the research for the philosopher's stone went hand-in-hand with conceptions for an elixir of life. In his laboratory the alchemist refined many new techniques and was in graphic artist and dramatist such as Breughel, Holbein and Ben Jonson. The chemist was emerging as the practical man who could engage in complex experiments leading to useful end-products; on the other hand he was a mystic unravelling the mysteries of the universe.

We must not, however, forget that serendipity has and continues

to be a feature of scientific achievement and was prominent in the early and pharmaceutical, and inspired observation led to penicillin.

Trevor Williams cannot faulted on the flow and worth of his narrative but it should be emphasized that he is writing a series on social history, and implies that chemistry should be seen more closely in context. Society determines the extent of science and technology and the decisions that seem superior scientific are basically political and economic. Society also draws cost-benefit resource balance of conservation, disturbance and pollution.

## Drawing-board companion

C. W. Tonkin

Technical Drawing (4th edition) By W. Abbott. Revised by T. H. Hewitt.  
Blackie £3.60, 0 216 90210 X.

This is the fourth edition of a standard work revised to meet present conditions. The work is arranged in three sections, the first providing a general introductory course, the second dealing with applied geometry, the third applying the work of parts 1 and 2 to the preparation of engineering drawings. As well as having vocational relevance, the course makes a real intellectual demand.

Part one covers the basic elements of drawing board work and the plane geometry necessary for effective drawing. The elements of orthographic drawing are well presented, third angle being used the more common convention in

present-day practice. The introduction to isometric drawing is clear, the illustrations are good and the problems well chosen.

Part two applies geometric constructions to a wide variety of drawing and graphics. Attention is directed to the principles of projection and then moves on to auxiliary projections, sections, intersections and developments. Various projections other than orthographic and isometric are explained clearly.

The final section draws together the principles of the first two parts to show how to produce good engineering drawings.

The drawings throughout are excellent and the text is sufficient and clear. The revision has been done well and the result is an excellent textbook for school pupils as well as for the young student who has already embarked on an engineering apprenticeship.

## Secretary

Alan Hooker

The Legal Secretary's Handbook. A. Newington and H. J. Willoughby.  
Oyez £5.50, 85120 214 4.

Presupposing a knowledge of general secretarial duties, this book covers those specialist tasks which are most likely to concern the secretary, "Secretary," however, rather misleading, for the book to prove invaluable to prospective legal executives and other secretarial staff. Company formation, conveyancing, divorce, and probate are included, in general terms, and comprehensively covered. The central text is backed by some one hundred specimen forms and documents, shown either complete or with full instructions.

## One shop window for a year's developments

ADRIAN HOPE on Audio '76

Despite continual controversy over which audio exhibitions offer the best chance of making useful judgments, most people do at least agree that a large exhibition makes an ideal opportunity to catch up on the year's developments. No single retailer could, for instance, ever hope to stock the range of audio equipment which was recently on display at the Majestic and Cairn Hotels, Harrogate, as part of Audio '76, this year's Northern International High Fidelity Festival.



Partly because of the success of past Harrogate exhibitions and partly because of the cancellation of this year's autumn London Audio Fair at Olympia, more than 70 companies exhibited equipment bearing twice that number of (mostly well known) audio trade names. Indications of increasing public interest in the audio was the participation of about 10 different magazines variously directed at those with an interest in the hows and whys of reproducing recorded or broadcast sound. There is now even a weekly magazine concerned mainly with hi-fi.

To the regret of those who would still prefer to buy British the trend towards Japanese dominance in the electronics field continues. However, there still remain some highly worthwhile products of truly British origin, mostly from small firms. Neal (North Eastern Audio Limited) of Newcastle-upon-Tyne have a wide range of British-made cassette, record and replay decks which offer true high fidelity and reliable performance. Neal decks are available with a wide range of function options: stereo with Dolby noise reduction; stereo with audio-visual pulse track facility; mono A.V. and on.

Because it is extremely costly to import loudspeakers, it is usually cheaper to buy British. And as many British loudspeakers are as good as, or better than, their foreign counterparts, this is one area in which buying British really pays dividends.

Several British firms are now manufacturing small speakers based exactly on design specifications developed over recent years by the BBC, and made under the strict licences granted by the corporation. The Audiomaster L33/5A, from Audiomaster Ltd, Bridge Park, Watford, Herts is one example. Only

308mm high by 193mm wide by 160mm deep, and guaranteed for five years, this tiny speaker can produce louder, clearer levels of sound (with adequate bass) than would ever have been thought possible a decade or so ago. Cost a pair is £139.90 including VAT.

Another small all-British loudspeaker, sold under the slogan "a quart into a pint pot" is the JR 149 from Tape Music Loudspeakers Ltd, of 114 Ashley Road, St Albans, Herts. Owing something to the BBC but most to the long-respected design work of Jim Rogers, the JR 149 is shaped like a large, cylindrical biscuit tin (30cm high by 20cm diameter), but has extremely attractive external styling. The basic cylinder is, in fact, of rigidly braced aluminium, with the sound emitted from one side.

Again, surprisingly high levels of clean sound can be produced; and it is probably true to say that of the many new loudspeakers which have appeared over the last year, the JR 149 has created the most interest within informed audio circles. Basic cost a pair is £135, including VAT.

With so many new speakers being launched on to the audio market, and inevitably involving review space, it is all too easy to forget, or overlook, the tried and tested product ranges which have been market leaders for years.

Rola Celsion Ltd, of Ipswich, Suffolk, have, for instance, been designing and selling Celsion speakers for 50 years now and have the business-like production of a good, reliable, recommended product down to such a fine art that their prices are surprisingly low. What is more Celsion products are almost always found discounted by up to 25 per cent. Their Ditton range is thus both cheap and safe to recommend. The new Ditton 33, for instance, can usually be bought for around £140 a pair and as a large, well-styled, heavy-duty speaker, is hard to beat.



Responsible manufacturers are now often at pains to remind us that as loudspeakers improve in quality the question of where they should be positioned becomes more important. Amplifiers, turntables and tape recorders will, within reason, function as well in one position or

room as another, but loudspeakers interact with their surroundings.

One loudspeaker needs to be mounted on a stand, another may sound better on the floor, one may sound horribly boomy if tucked into a wall or into a corner, and yet another may be designed for mounting close back onto a wall in a bookshelf. Respectable loudspeakers are always sold with instructions recommending their ideal mounting positions, but a surprising number of users never read the instructions.

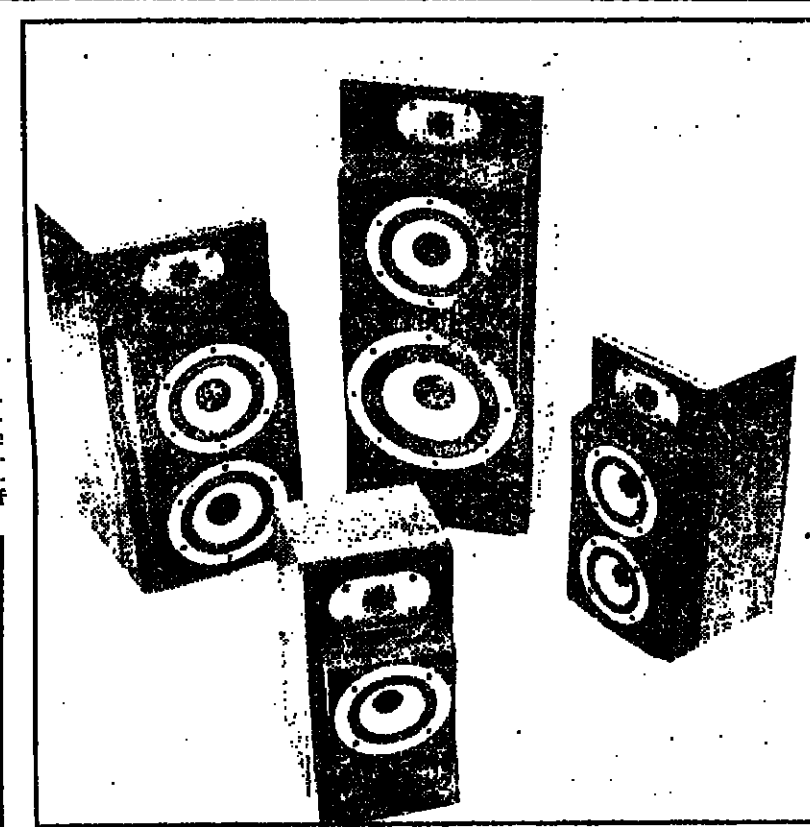


Another important factor which it is easy to overlook in the choice and use of loudspeakers is that of efficiency. This is simply a measure of the amount of electrical energy (as fed from the amplifier in the form of an audio signal) which the speaker converts in audible sound power. It is not generally recognized that the efficiency of modern loudspeakers, especially those of very small physical size, is extremely low; often less than one per cent of the electrical power fed in from the amplifier is converted into sound. This is why modern amplifiers must often offer many tens or even hundreds of watts a channel.

To cope with transients (sharp orchestral peaks) without "clipping off" the top of the peak and producing a distorted sound, the amplifier must feed many tens of watts into the speaker for the short duration of the peak.

Although most modern speakers are of low efficiency, and will produce inadequate, clipped sound with a low-powered amplifier, a few designers still produce high efficiency speakers. One is Donald Clave, a pioneer of British audio, who was schooled in sound reproduction by Dr W. N. McClellan (a mathematician noted for his work on bezel functions) and is responsible for the range of Lowther speakers (Lowther Guitars Ltd, 41 Mason Hill, Bromley, Kent). The Lowther range have sound conversion efficiencies of between 20 per cent and 40 per cent.

The extremely high efficiency of the Lowther range, coupled with their reasonable cost, makes them well worthy of consideration by any organization seeking to produce large volumes of sound from reasonably low-powered amplifiers. Schools, with the need to fill a large hall



with large quantities of clean sound would do well to look at—and, more important of course, listen to—the Lowther range.

Finally, and turning briefly to Japan, JVC was demonstrating an excellent and reasonably priced (at £19.50, including VAT) binomial headphone-microphone. Briefly bi-

naural recording involves the placement of a stereo pair of small recording microphones, one at, near or even in each ear of a dummy or human head. The microphones thus pick up

sounds exactly as they are heard at the ears. Subsequent playback, via headphones, produces an uncannily realistic reproduction of the original sound. For extreme convenience of operation, the JVC kit cleverly combines the microphones and headphones into a single, dual-purpose unit.

From left to right: the JR 149 loudspeaker; the Ditton 333 loudspeaker; the JVC binomial headphone-microphone and the Leak 3000 range of loudspeakers.

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The paperback collection that anticipated the Bullock Report, providing a richly varied and secure source of individualised supplementary reading—at a price to suit the current decapitated allowances. Graded in sets according to age and ability: Green (100 books for 6 to 7+); Orange (100 books for 7 to 8+); Blue (50 books for 8 to 10); Blue (100 books for Junior/Middle School); and the new Blue 1 (150 books for those who are getting on a bit). Each book is accompanied by a Pupil Card and a Teacher Card, designed to deepen and extend the reading experience by testing comprehension and suggesting related activities. Each set is presented in durable display cases, making an attractive mini-library for the classroom.

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Adding a new dimension to topic work in the Junior and Middle School—six sets ranging from horses to historical fiction. For £8.00 you get two copies of 10 different thematically grouped titles (mainly fiction) plus a large, full-colour wall chart and teacher's guide to use of the set. Neatly packaged in a small display case—a very attractive proposition.

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Large, full-colour, detailed treatments of 13 fascinating subjects—from animals to orchestras, to Indian Tribes in 1850. At 50p apiece—a valuable visual aid for any classroom, any age group.

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Scholastic bookclubs have always been well to the fore in offering paperbacks of outstanding quality and value for money. Today, in the face of soaring costs and swinging cuts, these attributes have become more important than ever.

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Each club covers a wide spectrum of fiction and non-fiction (reading) needs within its specific age group. Exclusive edition offers, special club prices and free books for organisers enhance the value of the club to pupils, parent, teacher and school.

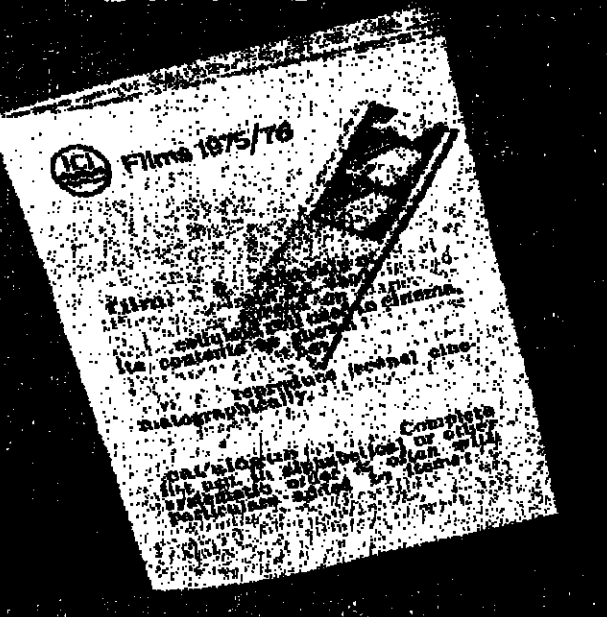
Organisation of the clubs is simple, costing the school nothing but the minimal amount of time required for ordering and administration. All club materials (and postage) are free.

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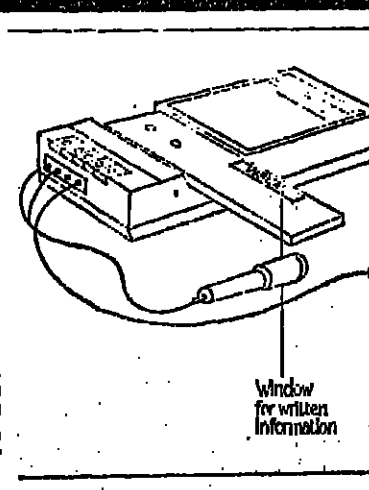
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ICI Ideas in action





ELIZABETH GOODACRE reviews materials for reading and language development

## Confidence booster for diffident pupils

**Remedial Reading Workshop**  
Edited by Donald Moyle and Sydney Wrench. Ward Lock Educational. £38.00, postage and packing 68p. ISBN 070 623 4278.

This material consists of 100 work cards (colour coded into 10 levels of difficulty), teachers' manual and separately boxed answer cards. The aim is to provide material and follow up work of interest to secondary pupils whose reading competence is within the range 6.9-9.0 years.

Much of the follow up work can be done in small groups and a section on open-ended activities provides suggestions for topic work, creative writing and exploratory activities. The publishers suggest the success of the Remedial Reading Workshop depends largely on the teacher, who needs to be involved in the pupils' work and use every opportunity to consolidate and extend their expertise.

Skills such as using context clues, reading for understanding, developing vocabulary, mastering spelling and phonic "rules" are practised in this scheme. The teachers' manual contains a useful chart giving precise information on the skills developed at each level of the Workshop. The material has been carefully graded by a combination of three methods including Cloze procedure.

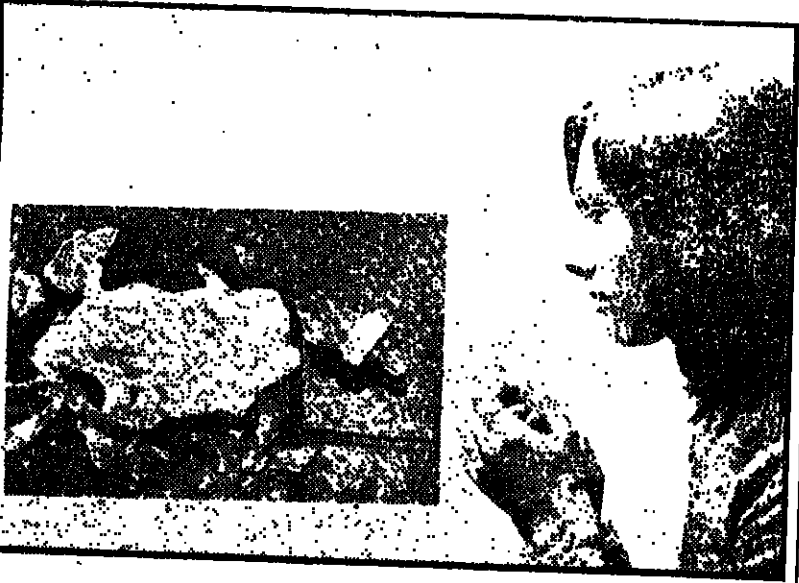
The pupils' workbook, which can

be ordered separately from the publishers, is set out in the teachers' manual and can be torn out and reproduced. Although the manual is only some 30 pages long, it also contains ideas for using the work cards as source material for language development with individuals or small groups.

The material is produced on good quality card and packed in blue plastic boxes, which we found rather unsatisfactory. The Workshop was tried out for a term on pupils aged 13 to 16 with reading ages of eight and above. Teachers felt it filled a need and liked the way the cards were produced. They felt they appealed equally to boys and girls and reflected a multicultural society.

Pupils had little difficulty with the multiple choice questions, but problems arose when they had to evaluate and interpret, although working through such difficulties was often beneficial to both teacher and pupil. Many pupils often seemed afraid of reorganizing ideas and facts from the text and a few—mostly older and more able—seemed completely unable to anticipate or predict words from their contexts.

As pupils became more familiar with the scheme, their confidence increased and they made progress. The teachers particularly remarked on how much the Workshop interested pupils who were often difficult to arouse, and who seemed to gain a lot from monitoring their own progress. E. G. and Irene Gray



"Shirley rushed downstairs. She jerked open the fridge. There was a smash. The baby's bottle had fallen out on the floor—and broken! There was no bottle of milk to give to Johnny. How could she stop him crying?"

"Shirley prayed. Shirley said: 'O God, please stop Johnny crying'. And she waited for God to answer her prayer."

"Was she wise?"

A dilemma for discussion in one of the Remedial Workshop workcards.

## A challenge for the mature

**Work Cards for Extension Reading with Language series**  
"From Faraway Places", "Women and Men", "Crossroads", and "The House that Man Built". Sandra Harris and Ken Morgan. Ward Arnold £4.75. ISBN 0 7115 7115 7.

Nisbet have produced work cards for the four extension reading series. These cards are designed for the whole second age range, and for pupils of all extension reading levels. The source material is a novel and may be used in isolation or as a basis for further investigation of cultural attitudes on this greater mental maturity.

The first book, *From Faraway Places*, has a vocabulary of 3,000 words increasing to 3,000 in the four books. The last book, *From Crossroads*, seems to be about reading 10-12 (Fry Readability). The cards include folk tales, fiction and poetry are included and are produced and illustrated.

The work cards consist of cards in each cardboard box colour coded to match the books. Work cards are not only for story or article and poem but also for factual text. The cards are provided so the teacher can deal with the child or prepare work cards for himself.

Some cards have a "follow-up" reading section which would require pupils to consult reference books. Card 16 in the book is a crossword puzzle. Questions deal with word study and derivation. The four extension reading series are appropriate for good readers in the junior school.

## The house that man built

Carol Painter

ence on the part of the pupil. The teacher's notes suggest that the class may be asked to compare the examples of adult fiction given in the project with the "serious" short fiction of "such writers as D. H. Lawrence, Katherine Mansfield, H. E. Bates, Susan Hill, Ernest Hemingway".

Less rigorous alternatives are offered—comparisons with films, comics and magazines, for example, but there seems to be little point in asking a pupil who reads comics exclusively to compare an extract from a comic with his own reading. This section seems to assume a fairly literate and intelligent child who can compare more sophisticated literature with the crudities of popular magazines and novels.

The project was used with a class doing a sixth form general course on women in society. The teacher found some difficulty in using isolated extracts from sources with which she was not acquainted.

While the variety of sources does add interest and scope it presents specialist teachers with the problem that they may be misrepresenting the whole if they have not read the complete work. From a sociological point of view pupils would have liked to know the sources of all the material, but these are not written on all the extracts.

One or two of the extracts were exceptionally stimulating. The Yeats poem, which suggests a criterion by which sex could be judged as a "genuine occupational qualification" and an extract from a sociological survey of driving habits, provoked quite a lot of discussion. The extract from the Bible, showing how Christianity reflects or initiates the male/female problem, led to a good discussion on the effect of religion.

The project is, perhaps, too wide to provide a satisfying experience for either teachers or pupils. It touches on many important and interesting aspects of the roles of men and women in society, but does not really come to grips with any of them. The necessity for careful selection by the teacher makes the project time consuming and teachers may feel, in view of the material involved, that much of the material



Heath-note

"As we've changed roles I should be writing that!"

The project is on sheets of A4 paper. The packs are arranged in multiples of six for group work. The sheets are flimsy and it is likely that they would survive rough handling, or even constant use, in a classroom.

There is a lot of writing, mostly for small print, and a fairly high level of interest and intelligence could be necessary to overcome the method of presentation.

The topics covered in the project two types of text. The SPAR test is a wide range of material, but has the advantages of parallel forms. The Salford Reading Test is progressively more complex sentences (based on factors of word length and sentence length) rather than linguistic complexity. The project reads these sentences aloud to the tester until six errors have been made. Self-corrections are permitted, prompts are made after seven seconds and recorded as errors. No other information is given on the importance of different types of reading error or "mistakes".

Raw scores can be converted into reading ages or percentile ranks and the test is suitable for the age range six to 12. The manual contains the percentile rankings and details regarding the standardization procedure adopted. The test is printed clearly on card in type of increasing size, and they can be given easily and quickly, although continuous use will make the teacher question the similar weighing which has to be given to substituting "a" for "the" and not being able to read "affairs".

Five poisonous mushrooms are shown in full colour on a new wall-chart from Sterling Health Products. One or two look quite attractive but the warnings are explicit and promise a range of unpleasant results if the mushrooms are eaten. To obtain a free wall-chart, send an A4 stamp to Dept A11, Sterling Health Products, Surbiton, Surrey.

BEWARE poisonous mushrooms

Field studies in Golant

by Jim Anthony

Golant Filmstrip no C6967. Educational Productions Ltd. in collaboration with the Youth Hostels Association. £3.00 or £3.40 plus VAT.

Field study centres are as varied as the land of Britain itself. In the last few years the trend has been towards more serious treatment of field studies. Bucket-and-spade jaunts have been replaced by thoroughly prepared, researched and organized environmental studies even for the younger middle school child.

Extra ideas can be found in the chosen section of the teacher's notes. There is plenty to choose from—ranging from the physical geography, geology, quarries and mines, to land use, tourism, flora and fauna, and the historical background of the area.

The filmstrip is up to EP's usual good standards, and includes a couple of locating maps in the early frames.

The Youth Hostels Association, for many years the mainstay of the young traveller with not much to

Wildlife and flower arranging

Gerard Holdsworth Productions and British Transport Films are in

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34

# TALKBACK

Ideas,  
argument, experiences,  
research

## Another Olympics

Robert M. Povey

Chairman: We have to name our team by the end of next week. It would be possible to allow some flexibility in our selection procedure but nothing much would be gained by this. It would only cause uncertainty. Any errors can be corrected in time for the next Olympics.

Committee member: But athletes who might win a place in this Olympics might have lost heart or dropped out of training by the time the next Olympics comes round.

Chairman: Well, that would be their fault and their loss.

Committee member: And possibly the nation's?

Chairman: A hypothetical situation. We don't deal in hypothetical situations. I think we have had enough idle chat now. We really must get down to business. You have the athletes' records, secretary?

Secretary: Yes, we have the records of most of the athletes as produced by their club officials from reports by their coaches.

Chairman: Good enough.

Committee member: But what about



Young hopefuls awaiting selection in Tameside

those clubs that have not sent their athletes' records?

Chairman: Well, if they're not sufficiently interested to produce their athletes' records that's hardly our fault. And anyway errors can be corrected later. We put on one side first all those athletes who

are clearly of Olympic potential.

Committee member: What criteria are we to adopt in our deliberations, chairman?

Chairman: I don't think we want to get sidetracked, do we? I think, in a sense, the criteria we are adopting will become perfectly

Picking a team for Tameside/Further doubts about Bennett research/Ealing teacher on English Language Reception Centres

clear as we progress. The first case, for example, is clearly an Olympic candidate. His club chairman writes that he is one of the "outstanding performers" in Little Plough Athletic Club.

Secretary: I do note, however, chairman, that this club has no less than 25 outstanding athletes on the basis of the officials' recommendations out of a membership of 50.

Chairman: Quite so. A most encouraging state of affairs.

Committee member: I wonder though whether the secretary has any objective stopwatch times for these athletes, chairman? This would give us a little extra information to go on.

Secretary: Yes, we have one or two unconfirmed times recorded by the athletes' coaches (possibly with wind assistance).

Chairman: Well, they'll do for the present, pending the introduction perhaps at some later date of a new one-day competitive trial system.

Committee member: With regard to the new one-day competitive trial system, chairman, I believe that this has already been tried in some areas. I am reliably informed by athletes in fan Thompson country that this system is certainly not foolproof.

Chairman: This may be so, but it distracts from the task in hand. May I remind members that we are here to select an Olympic team by the end of next week. We must press on.

Secretary: I have just been looking through the records, which appears to have no dates of Olympic standard. They do not recommend any less than having Olympic performances in club athletes as even though the records have been very good. What would you suggest in the meantime?

Chairman: Well, we'll have to rely on our own judgments as to the evidence in the records. How many places have we left?

Secretary: Several are still available.

Chairman: In that case, we probably afford to allow a few athletes through in those areas where places are still available. But we only want athletes who perform well in those areas which are clearly of importance, not in peripheral events. It's medal potential after.

Committee member: Might I suggest, chairman, that it could be helpful if we were actually to see some of the athletes' coaches personally?

Chairman: I'm afraid this would be administratively feasible present. We have the job to do. We complete it. Errors can be remedied later.

Robert M. Povey is principal tutor in education, Christ Church College, Canterbury.

## More equal after all?

R. Sumner and M. Cresswell

Those who have followed the discussion of Dr Bennett's research will know that Table C1 in *Teaching Style and Pupil Progress* has been acknowledged to be inaccurate (tables in the text and those relating to the residual gains are apparently correct).

But whatever the minor inaccuracies, the table gives one result which has so far been ignored. It is the remarkable rise in mean standardized scores obtained under all teaching styles and in all three basic subjects. The majority of the 900-odd children in the study achieved gains well in excess of those anticipated from the test.

For the maths test, for example, a score of 97 at age 10.03 (presumably the mean age of the pre-test) would be awarded for 17 children made the same progress as the NFER standardization sample (10,000 children in 1966) ten years later at age 11.03 (that is, 23 questions correctly) and so obtain a standardized score of 97 again. (The purpose of the study

was to allow for gains attributable to the passage of time.)

In the Lancaster research the informal group are said to have averaged 97.2 at pre-test and to have scored 101.8 on re-testing one year later (table C1). This corresponds to 28 questions being answered correctly, and in age equivalents (incidentally, not units we favour) this gain represents 21 months progress during 12 months of schooling.

The figures for the other teaching styles are from 102.2 to 108.5 (formal), a gain of 22 to 23 months, and from 95.6 to 98.4 (mixed), a gain of 17 months. (We have extrapolated the conversion table and interpolated age equivalents against those, but stuck to the arithmetic.) English and reading.

For mathematics again, the residual gains of "four or five months differential progress" may now be put into a clearer perspective. These differences must be seen years' notional progress in attainment. Perhaps the attainment of children whose progress is in line with the test standardization would show differential effects due to teaching styles, but would these not be proportionally reduced from four and a half months in 24, to about two and a half months in 12? An enquiry with matched controls might clear up this point. It can be said,

however, that the Lancaster sample appears to be unrepresentative of the population at large in terms of progress during the school year in question.

One reason for these unexpected rises may be the presence in the sample of schools taking the 11-plus. The differences between 11-plus and non-11-plus schools are detailed in the book and summarized on page 102: "The presence of a selective examination at the age of 11 is related to superior progress, particularly in reading and mathematics in informal classrooms." Following the proportion of schools taking the 11-plus was not kept constant between teaching styles; there were five 11-plus and seven non-11-plus schools in the formal and mixed groups, but only three 11-plus and non-11-plus schools in the informal group.

Since the differences in attainment in English and reading between 11-plus and non-11-plus imbalance in the samples will have a considerable influence on the mean overall gains reported for the schools. Assuming that the 11-plus is common too, and evenly divided between the schools in formal, schools can be weighted according to the proportions of 11-plus and non-11-plus schools in the formal and mixed samples. Doing this reduces the overall gain in English progress by half, and transforms the gain in reading progress to a small overall gain. (The lag in mathematics is only slightly reduced.)

Alternatively, comparing like with like, shows that in selective systems informal teaching gives the largest gains for English and reading (though not for mathematics); in non-selective systems formal teaching styles give the largest gains. These interpretations are like Dr Bennett's, based on only three informal schools, but their results accord with experience" (page 101).

The 11-plus effects strongly suggest that the results are attributable to "test substitution". Other studies in a range of contexts have shown considerable differences between groups that are not meant to be testing and those that are not. The teacher typologies included apparently achieve assessment "in all its forms" where type 12a are "above average in all assessment procedures". The regular will find that the concluding discussion in Dr Bennett's report can be read quite intelligently with the substitution of "test substitution" for formal and mixed styles of teaching, and the converse for informal style.

A glance at the covariance analysis tables (C2, C3, C4) shows the most significant finding of all. Previous attainment has far more influence on pupil progress than the teaching styles adopted for the analysis. In each attainment area the effect of teaching style is

# EXTRA

## Aspects of English



## Goodbye, grammar

But has anything of real importance been lost in the course of this fundamental change of direction? asks Colin Peacock

At the beginning of my teaching career in the early sixties, I was required to teach formal English grammar to all my pupils, aged 11 to 16, beginning with parts of speech in Year One and ending with fully explicit clause analysis at Ordinary level. This requirement came about partly because of the O level syllabus then in force, but also because of the policy of the grammar school English department I was working in at the time, a policy then widely endorsed in schools, but under fierce attack from a variety of sources.

The battle today seems virtually over. On how many blackboards, I wonder, will you now find examples of clause analysis (in boxes or in columns)? In how many letters will there be exercises which distinguish between transitive and intransitive verbs, active and passive voices, and adjectival phrases and clauses. Indeed, most of the students I am now helping to train as future teachers of English state in blank or amused incomprehension at the mention of such archaic terminology.

But has anything of real importance been lost in the course of this fundamental change of direction? Informal discussion with parents and teachers of subjects other than English seems to indicate that something has.

Perhaps I should make clear from the beginning that I am using the word "grammar" to mean the analysis of the structure of language, not as a blanket term (as is often the case) to denote spelling, punctuation, and exercises generally, and also that this article is not a plea for a swing of the educational pendulum back to a better world.

I do, however, admit that at first I enjoyed teaching traditional grammar. With a strong Latin background, I had no problems with the concepts, and the subject was encouragingly clear-cut, easy to prepare, and offered plenty of scope for a teacher-dominated, rule-example-rule approach to teaching which seems so unfashionable at the present time. In fact, I suspect many young teachers of English today would be amazed how refreshingly clear and con-

crete it all was, compared with present thematic and resource-based approaches—clear and concrete, that is, to the teacher.

Here, of course, was one of the principal snags. I, for one, realized fairly quickly that we all appeared to be wasting our time. Most pupils found the subject at best difficult to understand, at worst it seemed no more than a meaningless mumbo-jumbo. At that time, too, we were on the crest of the "relevance" movement in English teaching. What possible "relevance" it was argued, could subordinate clauses have to the growing urban teenager?

Moreover, although there was much talk about the importance of "teaching" English grammar, the realization soon dawned that this seemed quite pointless. Virtually all children had "learned" the basic rules intuitively before starting primary school, and by the time they had reached secondary school their operational knowledge of the language was fairly sophisticated.

There was no evidence at all to suggest that the teaching of English grammar improved in any way a child's ability to actually use the language in speech and writing, quite the opposite, indeed. Andrew Wilkinson, for example, in *The Foundations of Language* (OUP 1971), summarizes "massive research" since 1903 which seems to show conclusively that the teaching of formal grammar has no beneficial effect on the development of pupils' speech and writing.

So, pupils found the old-style grammar difficult, boring and "irrelevant", and teachers had lost faith in the subject's academic credibility and its effectiveness in improving language skills. Clearly, there is not much to lament here. These seem to me, at any rate, persuasive reasons for the permanent extinction of its life in schools.

Moreover, teachers now possess a linguistic resource book in *Language in Use* (Doughty, Thornton and Pearce, Schools Council, Edward Arnold 1971) which is academically respectable and has actually been used in a reasonably interesting and stimulating format.

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## In defence of dispersal

Ranjana Malhotra

Recently the Race Relations Board published its judgment on the London Borough of Ealing's system of placing children in foster families. These are my views on the English Language Reception Centres and centres which provide the basis for the education of dispersed children.

There is an immediate need for children to learn English as soon as they come to school. Children who go to a normal class will only pick up an approximation to standard English (plagiarized English), and will be unable to express themselves in new situations. They can best learn a second language from a second language-trained teacher. This is best done in a small group, where there is a more personal relationship between teacher and pupil, and the teacher has time to talk to individuals.

The English Language Reception classes give stability and confidence to children. They see that there are others like them who can only speak their own language. They do not feel embarrassed about their language and culture.

When children arrive at school at the age of five in a normal class, teachers cannot find time to teach a new language as well as other basic skills and concepts. I have discussed this question with all my colleagues at this first school. In the ELRC pupils learn the language successfully, and get specialist knowledge of the teacher, and the help of the full-time welfare assistant.

Though being in the disadvantaged areas, it has its good points as well.

It has so far prevented the existence of all white and all black schools, which would lead to the segregation of the host and guest communities would never get the opportunity to understand each other. The policy of dispersal leads to tolerance and acceptance on the part of the white locality. Children get to know each other, and find they are all the same underneath their skins.

ELRCs in schools are usually staffed by committed teachers who talk about and perhaps celebrate in groups, so that children learn about each other's cultures.

Given the chance of transferring their children to a Southall school only two in my class accepted. Of these two the parent of one child changed his mind, though the other for it to be considered.

Our centre, and the other, work in which I have taught, as well as I feel they fully justify Ealing Education Committee's remarkable step in making special provision of this kind. It goes a long way towards solving the educational difficulties faced by Asian families in this country.

Ranjana Malhotra is teacher in charge, Sellhorn First School Language Centre, Ealing.



## An uncertain status

English as an FE subject offers a bewildering variety of options—or compulsions.  
By Ronald Broadfield

To profess "English" as a "subject" one can teach is to commit oneself to a bewildering variety of options—or compulsions. "English" is not only a term, it is also a function within institutions as something less than and more than a "subject", as a medium for other subjects or as an ancillary to other subjects—like economics, or activities—like the secretarial. The teacher of English may have no competence in the area of these disciplines or activities, yet they may provide such motivation as his students have, and to teach English for itself alone in such circumstances can end in something very boring and drill-like.

English text books in institutions like technical and commercial colleges often well-meaningly offer subjects of chatty material which may activate certain reflexes (drugs, sex, television and the like), but cannot create new areas of awareness in the student. Reflecting the uncertain status of "English" as a "subject", such institutions are inclined to regard "English books" as fuddy-duddy things in any case. A analytical shredding of old *Guardian* and colour supplements is liable to result, accompanied by a frantic wish to the photocopy. (Too often the photocopy is kaput, and the even fiercer attempt is made on the monstrous regiment of woman (sic) who does the stencil carboys).

Such, such are the joys unless you can live with yourself as you repeat lesson after lesson on things like "the comma", lifting your and occasionally from the yellowing notes to peer through trifles at the police cadets who look sullen every year. Unfortunately, such is the class-contact commitment of the teacher in further education that the teacher in further education will certainly go mad; and if you do skip things your conscience will ensure that it just is not worth doing. This, in these

particular contexts, is the Catch-22 of English teaching. If, as I have suggested, English teaching is particularly difficult because it immediately opens up on the human world in ways that may easily make questions of "relevance" and "structuring" much more difficult matters than they are in other "subjects". Yet it is better to accept that this is in the nature of the subject than to attempt to force English teaching into moulds suggested by the so-called "exacting sciences". The multiple choice O level comprehension is an intolerable attack on the English teacher's function, setting up highly inappropriate controls over what goes on in the classroom. Yet that is not the only kind of rigour, and has the power to kill off any real living interest in the subject.

Some parts of the old Cambridge Certificate for Foreigners were like that. The new one is worse. Besides, preparing for such an exam means trying to turn yourself into some kind of teaching machine. Little time is left for talking to the students and making them talk in a way that leads them towards using English in "normal" ways. In theory there should be, but it hardly ever works out like that. A summary school in which the requirements may be vaguer but in which one can get down to the business of guiding the student into self-expression, can accomplish a lot more.

We have in some sense in English teaching to act as if T. S. Eliot's counsel of despair about criticism could not be true of English teaching—"the only method is to be very intelligent". For example, to be very intelligent, to be a seminar discussion which is free-ranging enough to be difficult to take notes on may seem to be a



A scene from the new version of ATV's "Starting Out" series. The programme is transmitted on Wednesday and Friday mornings throughout the autumn term.

## Talking about TV

By Graham Sellers, education officer, ATV

I spend a lot of time watching follow-up work to television programmes. The common feature of most of this work is talk—teacher talk, pupil talk, pupil-teacher talk. So I have spent a lot of time in classrooms listening to people talking.

All this happened before *John Dixon's Focus on Meaning* before Bullock, but the head intuitively given his children an opportunity to use talk to explain, to predict, to see what happens, to reflect upon feelings and to anticipate problems and possible solutions.

There are teachers who believe that children should pay attention to the television screen. There are others whose attitude does not prohibit oral response during the programme. It seems to me that a reasonable amount of comment from children during programmes enhances the stimulus. It also seems to me that if the programme is good the amount of comment remains reasonable.

I sat with a group of 15-year-olds while they watched an episode of *Starting Out*, a programme about the television world. They were asked to comment on the characters. At the same time the group had an overall discipline which meant that the remarks never drew the attention away from the screen. They gave a response to what was shown, not a distraction from it.

The ensuing talk about the situation, characters and issues raised was initiated by a student's remark at the end of the broadcast. Some of the teacher's few questions were posed to find out how much a person knew. They were supportive and helped the girls to clarify explanations of their views and feelings. Most of the questions came from and were answered by the students.

There was a lot of affection in the group. Everyone seemed to feel safe and was willing to risk thoughts and feelings. The presence on the screen of characters of the viewers' own age group with hopes, fears, desires similar to theirs meant that they were able to vicariously through the people in the story.

Neither of the series quoted in these examples would be found under the English section of the *Annual Programme Booklet*. *Exploration* comes under *Integrated Studies* while *Starting Out* is labelled *Personal Relationships/Careers Education*.

We are at present looking for ways of cross-referencing programmes in our literature to make it easier for teachers to find useful material from outside the narrow confines of their subject area or age group. English teachers particularly will find a lot of valuable material under other umbrellas as well as under their own.

Mike Torbe recently wrote "Thinking of language development as something you can have a lesson on is wrong". It is also wrong to think of it as something you can have a television programme about. You can make a television programme about it, but you have to think of it as something you can have a television programme about. You can make a television programme about it, but you have to think of it as something you can have a television programme about.

## The real uses of language

John Dixon on the new AEB Communication Studies course

Blue moons and new A level subjects in the arts must be about 16 to 19 who are going direct into work, not higher education. There are likely to be applications in sixth form general studies as well as in English at other levels, including Use of English.

Why Communication, not English? It is a reminder, I suppose, that while language is central, it is increasingly covered along with other methods of communication, especially visual. Modern media are spreading this process into unexpected quarters—think of the Open University. But there is a second reason for preferring Communication, especially in vocational courses, and that is the distrust of approaches to language that lock it in English exercises.

By implication Communication courses stress the need for some real audience—not a teacher as marker—and for real tasks of informing, advising, reporting, persuading, and instructing. For young adults, this is the challenge they are going to meet in the real world already—in life outside school or college. This is where success or failure in communication has real meaning, not a mark out of 10.

Recently, too, the notion of communication has had a further application in the further education world. In many colleges specialists in communication are meeting with colleagues in technical or business studies and planning courses. Lecturers from all departments are facing the question: how can we help students to cope with communicative demands, not only at work but those we produce in the college, as we try to increase their vocational and social competence? The interesting thing is that the

English 16-19 project is beginning to hear of similar working parties in schools and sixth form colleges. There the impetus seems to come from Bullock and its proposals for a language policy "across the curriculum". On both sides there had been a shock of recognition: the problems in communication 16-plus students start with are the product of the way we teachers talk, or write notes, and the reading we set, and conversely of our failures to give students the chance to talk and think their way into the specialist registers of language we use. It is a big problem that will not easily be solved, and it will hit schools and further education increasingly hard over the next decade as education beyond 16 becomes a majority demand.

Personally, though, I shall be disappointed if the thrust of communication studies stops there. Schools, in particular, are bound to ask the question: how is this new work going to relate to the traditional A level in English literature? No doubt there will be some very defensive noises, especially where people have come to defend what I have already met one group working on a new communication syllabus which finds it a stimulus to thinking about literature courses. They are teachers from schools and further education, convened by John Gardner of Leigh College, and commissioned by the Schools Council to produce an N and F syllabus. To judge from them, interaction between Communication Studies and English literature would be to the mutual benefit of teachers and students on both counts.

John Dixon is director of the Schools Council 16-19 English project.



How adequate will the English they learn in school be for the challenges outside?

## Ancient and modern

Stuart Harris suggests a study of the history of English language

Since the discrediting of traditional grammar exercises there has been a tendency to assert that grammar is spelling and vocabulary will look after themselves if the student is sufficiently involved in his writing. There has been a reluctance to study the language per se and to admit that the pursuit of excellence in written and spoken English is a laudable aim, should like to be a part of the curriculum. The extension of the student's vocabulary is a prime aim of language teaching, in order to improve the scope and style of his expression and to deepen his comprehension.

It is with this aim in mind that I have outlined a course for students in secondary schools. The content can be presented as the main course with two parallel courses which can be pursued most usefully in the 13-plus age group. I do not intend it to replace all other aspects of the syllabus, such as poetry, drama, reading and discussion, but to complement them.

I believe that a study of the history of English language can go some way to explaining the forms of modern English and help the student in language development. An understanding of the Danish and Norman contributions to Anglo-Saxon and the continuing impetus given to the use of Greek and Latin in the church and in Renaissance scholarship, is central to a proper appreciation of modern English.

In this way the variety of syncretism can be put into a historical context. The etymological dictionary is essential for this.

To conclude the main course technical and scientific vocabulary should be considered as this is one of the main growths in twentieth-century English. The teacher may also draw on the linguistic habits of his century. English and illustrates the

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# Step by step scheme

An evaluation of Margaret Hooton's 'First reading and writing book'. Interview by Laura Hyde

Margaret Hooton's *First reading and writing book* (Shepherd-Walwyn Ltd), has stimulated wide opinions since its publication two years ago. As a simple and methodical phonic approach to the teaching of reading, the book is most suitable for individual teaching and may well be used by a teacher who has children with special learning difficulties. A teacher wishing to supplement a scheme already in use to answer the needs of particular pupils could easily incorporate aspects of the book.

*First reading and writing book* can be used in a variety of ways by a teacher or parent wishing to teach their own children. Unfortunately few of the book's critics have formulated their assessments after actually using it and there is no doubt that any approach to the teaching of reading must ultimately be evaluated through practice.

One lady who has, to some degree, provided this more thorough evaluation is Mrs Ann Turk, a secondary school teacher for 15 years, she used *First reading and writing book* to teach her youngest child to read.

"I didn't have a clue how to teach young children to read and I was very eager to teach both children. I searched and searched for some appropriate reading scheme and read many methods of teaching reading... and yet what I was looking for was some step by step, well ordered scheme that I could trust and follow."

Katharine, her daughter, is four and was just three-years-three-months when Mrs Turk began teaching her. Katharine had been introduced to the letters of the alphabet before they began using the book, but because her acquaintance with

them was by no means complete, Mrs Turk began at the second chapter, entitled "The five vowels". The first chapter is about "Concise of space" and is designed to establish knowledge of those concepts and practices that are considered most fundamental to reading and writing.

"I did not start with the preliminary exercises because of the practice she had already received, but in the light of the mistakes she now makes, I wish I had used them. I had assumed it was obvious, but it isn't. We started with the vowels and then proceeded step by step through the book. We tried to do a little every morning, as regularly as possible. Generally our working period would not exceed 20 minutes and we would stop as soon as Katharine seemed to be losing interest."

"I was astonished at her rate of progress. Now that we have completed the book Katharine can write simple sentences from dictation, generally without having to break the words up. She is also able to read simple sentences with great ease. When she comes to an unfamiliar word she will naturally sound the word out."

Mrs Turk invited me to watch a lesson in progress. Not only did Katharine show an unusual mastery of her new literacy skills, but she also delighted in their use. This enthusiasm was certainly the most striking feature of her approach to reading and writing.

Unlike most reading schemes now published for preschool or school use, Margaret Hooton's book is not particularly exciting visually. Illustrations are in black and white, the print is small and rather densely arranged on the page. Its praise-worthy attributes are its orderly presentation and simple teaching instructions. I was interested to hear how Mrs Turk and Katharine had

reacted to the material and its presentation.

"Katharine liked it from the outset. She liked the fact that the book was red and shiny. It seemed to be the clarity of Margaret Hooton's method that appealed to her. Unfortunately the writing was rather small so that when I wanted her to read something I would have to write it out in larger print. This was an inconvenience. She quite liked the pictures but there was no colour and she did not seem to take much interest in them; for visual stimulation we would turn to other books."

Asked about the order the material was presented in, Mrs Turk thought that the first introduction to vowel and consonant combinations was somewhat faulty.

"The first step in combining a consonant with a vowel is a difficult concept. Mrs Hooton introduces C as the first consonant to combine with a vowel. Because C is very difficult to pronounce without naturally sounding a vowel with it, I used S instead. The advantage of S is that you can slide the consonant on to the vowel and thus the distinction between the two is clarified and their combination is easily appreciated. I think this is a fault in the order of the book although I can appreciate why it was done as C is easier to write than S."

Mrs Turk also thought the use and function of the comma was introduced far too early. Katharine found the question mark enjoyable to write but was again unable to appreciate its function. I asked Mrs Turk whether or not she had found it necessary to supplement the book with any other practice or scheme.

"Every so often we would use Macdonald's alphabet book which is beautifully illustrated and Katharine

would often seek it out just for pleasure. We also used a couple of the Ladybird books because she wanted to read sentences from a book with large print."

The introduction of each new letter in the *First reading and writing book* is accompanied by very precise writing instructions so that the letter is formed according to one particular procedure. Margaret Hooton considers great care and precision should be given at every stage of writing.

The unusual precision of Katharine's writing led me to question whether she had found this disciplined approach to the formation of letters acceptable and to what extent Mrs Turk had adhered to the instructions given by Margaret Hooton. Although Mrs Turk had not insisted on Katharine following Margaret Hooton's every instruction, the precision of her letter formation was, in Mrs Turk's opinion, largely due to drawing careful straight lines and circles. This was the only exercise from chapter one that Mrs Turk had fully used.

Margaret Hooton introduces terms such as "upper case", "lower case", "vowels" and "consonants" to the child's learning. Apparently Katharine was not confused by the terms but they did not seem to have any impact upon her learning.

Katharine did, however, appreciate the importance of vowels. "I think it's important that the child knows the existence of vowels because they are so basic," said Mrs. Turk, "even if she herself does not use the word. Likewise, she would need to know that there are letters that are different to vowels, so one may as well call them consonants." Katharine liked the fact that the vowels were printed in red; this importance given to the vowels appealed to her.

Mrs Turk was very pleased with the ideas and instructions Margaret Hooton supplied for additional exercises. She had cut out the letters and black and white letters and children had made copies of the letters to play word games. She had also made copies of the letters to use in the new centre has two full-time advisory wardens, a secretary and several rooms of its own. The ways in which it can offer more sustained support vary from displays of commercially published books and materials to year-long courses involving a half-day a week release of English teachers.

The 1975-76 course for English departments is a good example of an ILEA's resources being used strategically to support groups of teachers working together. This kind of project, which was initiated by one of the heads of English, is likely to close the gap between theory and practice by virtue of its structure.

A group investigating children's writing would share ideas and analyse scripts and tape recordings from lessons. They would begin to draw tentative conclusions about the gap between the teachers' intentions and the children's responses. This pattern was often sustained throughout the year, looking at different aspects of English teaching.

One group spent two terms investigating the nature of story by agreeing to use the same short stories, myths and legends with different age groups, and by varying the strategy from week to week. Another spent a term making a case study of one 12-year-old West Indian girl. The idea was

To abstract is to trade a loss of reality for a gain in control—J. Moffett: *Teaching the Universe of Discourse*.

The emphasis (on in-service courses) should be on flexible interaction between practice and theory—Bullock Report 326.

Bullock in effect says to NATE: 'Your concerns have been the right ones, but teachers of English in the classrooms know nothing of you.'—John Watts, Chairman, National Association for the Teaching of English, 1975.

For the last nine years there have been regular meetings of five local English centres based in English departments; unlike them, the new centre has two full-time advisory wardens, a secretary and several rooms of its own. The ways in which it can offer more sustained support vary from displays of commercially published books and materials to year-long courses involving a half-day a week release of English teachers.

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## Collective wisdom

Michael Simons on the aims and work of the ILEA English Centre



sparked off by Lahov's article *The Logic of Non-Standard English*. Each week a teacher brought in tape recordings of the girl in a variety of situations—reading a range of texts including a geography text, improvising a breakfast scene with two other girls, chatting about home and school, reading through her own writing and so on. This kind of intensive and highly focused inquiry was especially useful in bringing together theory and practice.

This half day a week at the centre led to much more departmental discussion of English teaching. And all ILEA English departments

will ultimately benefit a little from the course because they will get some of the materials produced by the working groups such as an anthology of West Indian poetry, *Poetry into Fiction* and others. Here is an extract from one of the 40 written evaluations from teachers on the course: "Whatever criticism one may make of the course, there is no doubt in my mind that, for me, it has been valuable. But it is very difficult to chart the specific effects it has had on my teaching. I feel that there has been a whole nexus of experiences, discussions, readings, etc,

which have had a big effect on my teaching, making me realize increasingly the importance of self-confidence and of looking at how children learn, rather than how teachers teach. It is impossible to separate the role of the course from all this but I think it has probably been very important both in its own right and as a catalyst for discussions within the department."

them to make a case study of a whole class.

Evening study groups are also using this method of sharing and exploration.

The reading group which began four terms ago, aimed to make case studies of adolescents with histories of reading failure. This is a small group of five English teachers who work individually with poor readers and are helped by a consultant from the English department of the University of London Institute of Education. The purpose is not only to increase the confidence and expertise of the five teachers but for them to support others by producing occasional papers on their findings and by visiting other schools who ask for advice. This term, six more working groups are being set up on helping children to read, dialect, mass media, mixed ability, A level, Mode 11 and story. Each group will have a couple of conveners but the emphasis will be on sharing resources and skills.

These activities can only involve a small number of London's English teachers. Our "action research" style is complemented by more formal open meetings with speakers. There have been a series of talks on language across the curriculum with most sessions attended by 70 or 100 people. This term there is a series on style and meaning in film and next term one on language, culture and class.

The centre's attempt to reach out to more teachers, whether or not they visit the building, has resulted in a modest list of fiction and teaching materials. Using a small office fifth press, the centre prints teaching materials devised by other London teachers, ranging from books on media studies to a set of spelling posters.

English teachers in London and elsewhere are tending to work without the support of commercially produced course books, probably not out of principle but because some are difficult to use. They were obviously not tried out in city classrooms, whereas the centre's informal publications have usually been tested extensively. A good example is the *Myself* booklet which has been revised three times, is now 50 pages long and looks quite

continued on page 40

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## Language and reading

Adeline Hartcup on the ACE course held in Cambridge this summer

"Language and Reading: Implementing Bullock" was the subject of the Advisory Centre for Education course at Churchill College, Cambridge, in August. Its success was due to imaginative planning, judicious "casting" of tutors and speakers, and a tactful balance of workshop and lecture hall methods.

Asher Cashdan, of the Open University, was course director. Members were asked to make first and second choices from six subjects, and had advance information about group leaders, each workshop's main focus, and recommended reading.

The largest group concentrated on "Language and Reading in the Secondary School". Led by John L. Postgate, Redfield School, Oxford, it considered the practical problems of developing a language and reading policy.

All had the benefit of an excellent display of publications for reluctant readers. Some prepared work schemes for third year pupils of mixed ability. The Bullock Report's suggestions about what skills to develop in secondary schools were considered and supplemented, and others worked on encouraging language ability across the curriculum.

Nick Farries of the Open University led a second group on "Reading Purposes and Comprehension in the Middle School". How can magazines, papers and information projects encourage children to become independent readers? How can teachers make Middle School reading mean something to children?

There was an impressive array of reading matter for primary school teachers. With Cliff Mason from Yorton Junior School, Bristol, teachers considered "Children's Literature and Learning to Read" following the Bullock Report's plea for reading for enjoyment; discussing books for beginner readers; applying reading schemes; teaching methods; and organization of

by Dorothy Jeffree, from Manchester University's Master Adrian Centre, it studied "The Foundations of Language and Reading". How can teachers gauge the thoughts of children with mental ages of three to five, and development ages of one to seven? Dorothy Jeffree has done pioneer work on involving parents of subnormal children in teachers' work, and her group analysed tape recordings of children's play and considered preparation for reading.

Between workshops, members met for lectures on wider aspects of their subject. "The Challenge of Bullock" was a good theme for the opening talk by Michael Mary, head of Woodberry Down, who is also a broadcaster, author and member of the Bullock Committee.

Edward Blighen has been a teacher, school librarian and writer, as well as a passionate reader, and he made some important points about "Reading as a Contagion". Readers made readers, he insisted, and readers were equally easily "unmade". Inept reading aloud could destroy a text; imaginative literature and a total and private experience, and perhaps the most a school could do was provide as many books as possible, and somewhere to read them.

Enthusiasm for books was contagious when children met an adult who was a true reader. Literature could be taught—or caught—through teachers of other subjects. School libraries should include, as well as good books, so that children could learn to judge and compare.

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# Living by fact or fiction

What makes a story accessible to children is its recognizability in the face of their own experiences writes Ralph Lavender

If R. L. Gregory was right—as it seems he was—when he said, writing about the science of fiction in *New Society* more than two years ago, that "we may live more by fiction than by fact", then perhaps it has implications for the teaching of literature. It means that not only must we accept the crucial importance of children's "storying" as part of their fantasy lives in building up what Frank Smith calls "the theory of the world in the head", but also that we should be looking around for some of the fictions we all tell ourselves at some time or another to help us in the business of teaching literacy and literature.

It appears that one of the fictions we have all told ourselves, as children, and probably as adults, too, is the story of running away and getting lost. In the beginning, this story is a moral one: if you run away, you will be punished. You are not supposed to run away. Hence, in the traditional story of *Mr. Men*, Tommy Grimes runs into the dire peril of being boiled and eaten for supper by the bogeyman through his disobedience—he is not a good boy and he does go out into the street. Bearly Potter recognized the universality of this experience: naughty Peter Rabbit goes into Mr. McGregor's garden instead of picking blackberries with his sisters, and he is lucky to escape with his life. Sometimes, it is true, no threat of punishment hangs over the escapee, or the threat is somewhat veiled.

In the classic *Rosie's Walk*, Rosie goes for a walk round the farmyard; she is not really an escapee by intention. Never once does she notice that a fox is following her; not once is the fox mentioned in the story, and it is noteworthy that some five-year-olds do not understand the fox's purposes, since the nature of foxes will tell him them. One of the lessons of this story may be that it is wise not to look behind you too often: knowing this, Rosie "got back in time for dinner".

The running-away-and-getting-lost story is also an appeal for security. If you run away, you can always go back home afterwards, and your parents will still love you. Some children actually do it, rather than making a story about it, and their parents

sometimes have to be reassured that this behaviour is not totally bizarre. In a recent case, a boy packed his case and went as far as the end of the road before he came back. His older brother was scornful, saying: "You didn't even get as far as buying an Underground ticket, did you?"

Max, in *Where the Wild Things Are*, is sent to bed without any supper for being wildly naughty. In the story he makes, he travels to the land where the real wild things are, he tames them with the magic trick of staring into their yellow eyes without blinking, and they declare him king. But after a rumpus, Max smells good things to eat, and he "was lonely and wanted to be where someone loved him, just as all". He returns home and finds his supper waiting for him in his room, "and it was still hot". While he has been away, his mother has forgiven him.

The same quality of reassuring security is to be found in Celia Berridge's book *Runaway Danny*. Danny's family has moved to a block of flats instead of to the country as he wished, and he has to go to a new school. The boys there do not make him feel welcome, so he runs away (a form of the running-away story often acted out in reality) on a bicycle and gets lost. In the end, however, all comes right for him. The pictures show a particular set of localities in Greenwich seen from a child's eye-level; but it is the universality of the experience which gives the book its greatest impact.

It is, of course, not surprising that many books for young children use the distancing device of animals for humans in this running-away-and-getting-lost story, as in *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Ping, in Marjorie Flack's book of that name, is a duck who leaves his family so that he will not get spanked for being late over the bridge. Next morning, he has to face the world of the Yangtze River on his own, and he, too, nearly pays with his life. The reason, it lies in the fact that such is the life force, no one has to face the world alone unless he is equipped for it.

If we begin to look in this way at how we can introduce children to literature in terms of the recog-

nizability of the experience, all the arguments about the paraphernalia surrounding that experience—whether you live in a flat or a detached house, whether it is dad or daddy, and whether it is fish and chips for dinner or escalope of veal cordon bleu—somehow begin to look like less important arguments.

What makes a story accessible to children is its recognizability in the face of their own experiences in their own stories, rather than the recognizability of the material environment. And the trouble with so many books aimed at presenting the real environment is that they do not contain recognizable experiences—indeed, some contain no experiences at all, they are not stories. Yet "we may live more by fiction than by fact", and even the best of us has a rather tenuous hold over reality, anyway.

Children and septuagenarians have wide-open, wondering eyes on the world: too many people lose them in between, they forget that it is the recognizable experiences beyond the material environment that count for most.

Later on, the running-away-and-getting-lost story shifts its purpose towards responding to the pressure of problems, and claiming independence is one of them. Thus, in *Terry on the Fence*, by Bernard Ashley, Terry runs away from home because he can no longer stand being nagged by his mother and bossed by his elder sister. He falls into the clutches of a gang and he is forced to steal from his own school.

There is a complexity of strands in this story, questions to do with honour and decision-taking are raised, and the relationship between Terry and the leader of the gang is sensitively drawn; and its relevance to the theme of this article is manifest.

In Joan Robinson's *Charley* the heroine claims her independence and more besides when she camps out in the farmhouse behind the hedge at the bottom of her aunt's garden—neither of her aunts wants her anyway, and this one happens to be away on holiday. Through her experiences Charley learns what it is to live in the world.

And again, in the brilliantly witty *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, Claudia is bored by the monotony of life,

and she also knows that there are more beautiful and comfortable places than the corner of a field. She and her brother Jamie claim their independence by camping for a week in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Naturally this theme is one that extends from children's literature into adult literature, where it clearly becomes a part of what Northrop Frye calls the one great story: that of leaving, searching for and finding one's identity. *Moby Dick* thus begins *Moby Dick* thus: "Call me Ishmael. Some years ago—never mind how long precisely—having little or no money in my purse, and nothing particular to interest me on shore, I thought I would sail about a little, and see the watery part of the world."

This one great story stretches from C. S. Lewis's Narnia books and Ursula Le Guin's trilogy that began with *A Wizard of Earthsea*, through *The Lord of the Rings* and much of Conrad and Henry James and into Russian literature. What gives the latter, in particular, its pungency is that, whether it is Goncharov's sardonic *Oncharov* or the passionate intensity of Dostoevsky, the nearer the characters come to conquering their identities, the further away they actually are from accomplishing it. Some times, they run away; and this is what begins in Beatrix Potter and Maurice Sendak and the others.

This theme serves to show that, even though there may be differences between literature for children and adult literature (in matters below the waist, for example), in many more important respects there is continuity. They are similar literatures. After all, there is continuity between the stories children tell themselves and those adults tell themselves. Having un-

derstood the truth of this, it then becomes clear that children should have the chance of being "taught literature", not because they have to be educated, but because they are alive. And then it also becomes possible to avoid the Sisyphus of selling that literature which is thought to be the kids' stuff as if it were some sort of cheap offer; and the Charybdis of thinking about the real stuff as literature for the elite.

Furthermore, if literature could be taught with this kind of understanding, children will come to understand, gleam by gleam, that, just as story is for living with and not for being educated by, so is reading. Once they have become readers, they are much more likely to remain readers lifelong; and they will know that the learning is never over.

A teacher of literature with people of our age, it is by searching out the themes of all our storyings and by bringing to our teaching an awareness of the wholeness of literature and what it is for, that we can best help our pupils.

My *Poetry* is a study of teenage poetry writing, which, despite its sloppy typography and comic-book dust jacket, is well worth exploring. In the first of three parts, the author argues that there is a need for greater fluidity of form and catholicity of subject matter in young people's writing. Only when we really know the adolescent will he have the confidence to produce his best work. The adolescent is all the time wanting to live out "the sense of daring and desire to experiment occasioned by his mental and physical growth, but finds that society makes little or no provision for the expression of such needs". It is this tension which the teacher should catch and capitalize upon in creative writing exercises.

Mr Brindley points to the poetic virtues of brevity, clarity, sincerity and the primacy of meaning which must be put across to the pupil, and discusses the use of gimmicks (here he includes paintings, drama, music, photographs, sound effects, walks) and the model of other poets to encourage writing.

The middle section contains a selection of poems of different themes, which the author has drawn out of his pupils. The more successful sustain a simplicity of style and profundity of thought which is identifiable; it would be instructive to know the ages and backgrounds to the contributors to avoid discouraging many teachers. A well constructed lesson programme for years one to four that looks at individual poems week by week, and which appears in the teaching aids section, is a splendid time saver for the hard pressed teacher.

*Hardy to Hughes* is a selection from 12 poets of the twentieth century.

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# What is poetry..?

Roy Blatchford writes about four new books about poetry that will stimulate the debate

If, as Shelley would have it, poets are the unacknowledged legislators of mankind, teachers are the acknowledged legislators of the mind. Where the twain meet—namely, in the teaching of poetry—debate runs high. In an attempt to promote creative verse writing, teachers now find themselves with pupils on weekend jaunts in the country, and are busy inviting practising poets into the classroom.

The first and most important aspect of poetry is that no one has, to the satisfaction of all others, defined what poetry is. Any definition either excludes something we undoubtedly know is poetry or includes something that is not.

It is not uncommon that teachers find children experiencing difficulties in understanding how a poem works and what makes it either banal or satisfying. At an infant age nursery rhymes are unquestioningly and happily learnt and recited for pleasure, but the instant a pupil is asked to formalize his response to a piece of figurative or descriptive verse, a barrier appears.

There are moments in the theatre when audience and actors are one. A mediocre performance may sustain interest, but it is that moment of theatrical excellence, the moment we can touch the silence in the auditorium, when an actor has us believe we are living within his spirit that constitutes great drama. This rare empathy is perhaps what the poet seeks to realize; a sense of encapsulating a complete experience for himself which if truly

executed will capture the reader's imagination.

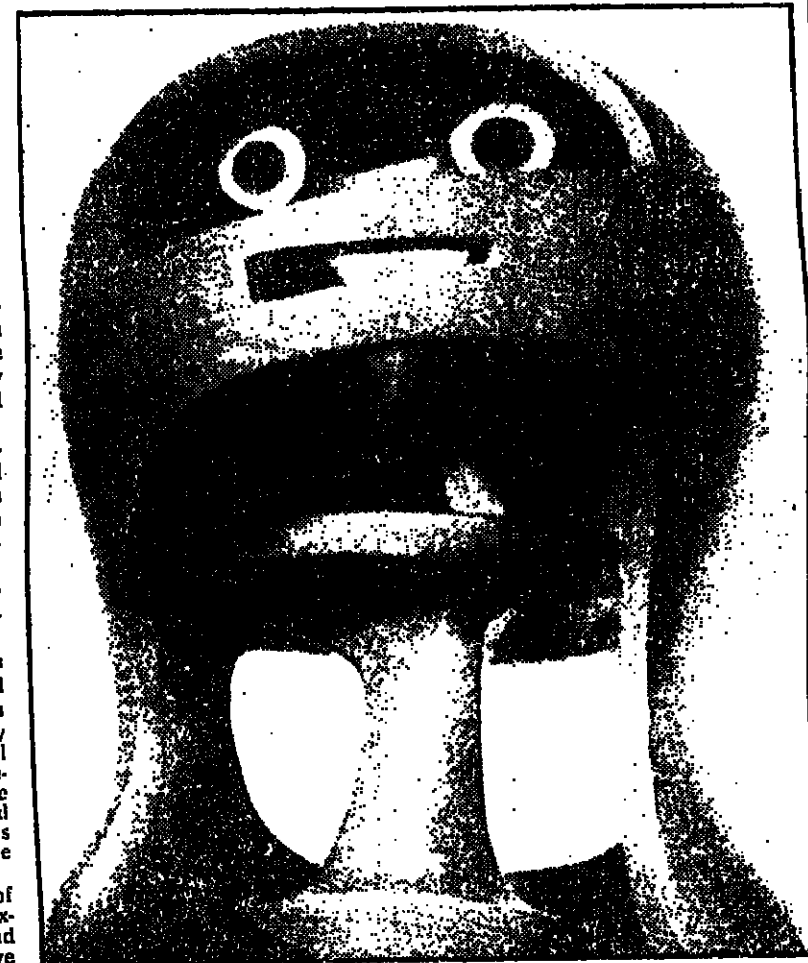
In a poem everything that needs to be said is there, and there should be nothing that does not need to be said or that does not contribute—what A. E. Housman called putting the best possible words in the best possible order.

"Even when poetry has a meaning, as it usually has, it may be inadvisable to draw it out. . . . Perfect understanding will sometimes extinguish pleasure." Words again from Housman that crystallize the critic's dilemma and go a long way to explain the varied and muddled quality of books about poetry.

The popularity of Geoffrey Sumnerfield's colourfully illustrated verse anthology, *Voices*, indicates that children are stimulated by the gory, the grotesque and the startlingly different. Simply, the human eye responds magnetically to the juxtaposition of print and illustration.

In this style, *Poetry Workshop* is a robust source of ideas and materials for work in English with 13s to 16s, and incorporates many of the better aspects of school anthologies. The layout and type-face are appealing to the eye; there is a thoughtful balance of text and blank page space; the photographs and drawings never obtrude but are pleasantly apposite.

Alan Brownjohn's translation of Prevert's "The rabbit", for example, is printed as a double spread and has four marvellously alive photos of a rabbit bobbing along the top of the page, while Langston Hughes's "Ballad of the Landlord" is set alongside a beautiful shot of



Henry Moore's "Helmet Head No 2" from "Poetry Workshop".

two ghetto children, naked to the urban heat, ecstatically playing in a street fountain.

The workshop accent in this volume means that the editors do not ask us to look at each poem hunting for simile and metaphor (the teacher may of course use them for such purposes), but rather to pursue the themes and ideas raised in the verse for drama activities and projects which might involve bringing objects from home or gathering cut-outs for a scrap book. In addition, there is a section devoted to five particular poets in which they, or the editors, discuss their work and present five or six poems of their own which characterize different styles and literary movements. Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Seamus Heaney, Robert Frost and Brian Patten are those featured.

*My Poetry is Life* is a study of teenage poetry writing, which, despite its sloppy typography and comic-book dust jacket, is well worth exploring. In the first of three parts, the author argues that there is a need for greater fluidity of form and catholicity of subject matter in young people's writing. Only when we really know the adolescent will he have the confidence to produce his best work. The adolescent is all the time wanting to live out "the sense of daring and desire to experiment occasioned by his mental and physical growth, but finds that society makes little or no provision for the expression of such needs". It is this tension which the teacher should catch and capitalize upon in creative writing exercises.

Mr Brindley points to the poetic virtues of brevity, clarity, sincerity and the primacy of meaning which must be put across to the pupil, and discusses the use of gimmicks (here he includes paintings, drama, music, photographs, sound effects, walks) and the model of other poets to encourage writing.

The middle section contains a selection of poems of different themes, which the author has drawn out of his pupils. The more successful sustain a simplicity of style and profundity of thought which is identifiable; it would be instructive to know the ages and backgrounds to the contributors to avoid discouraging many teachers. A well constructed lesson programme for years one to four that looks at individual poems week by week, and which appears in the teaching aids section, is a splendid time saver for the hard pressed teacher.

*Hardy to Hughes* is a selection from 12 poets of the twentieth century.

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Dr. David Bruce of Cambridge University department of education also drew on "Recent Development of Language and Reading Skills". He explained how primary school children were still gaining experience of "sequential dependencies, and how the use of context was an essential language and reading skill."

But how much did the course really help members? A good deal, many of them replied. Workshops were well planned and guided, and the speakers were to the point. The chance of exchanging ideas in workshops at night and over

a drink in the bar—with colleagues from different backgrounds was by no means the least valuable asset.

However, more than one observer had doubts about the cost-effectiveness of such courses. At a time when important education funds are being gutted, it is to be remembered that the Bullock Report cost £95,000, and this three-day conference cost 50 members more than £70 each. Language was one half of the Bullock Report's subject, and should be used with respect and skill. The bulk of the report and the not infrequent verbosity of course speakers suggested that, in our highly-taxed society, there should be some kind of charge on verbal squandering.

This was a general grouse, however, aimed at many official reports and conferences. For most of the time the ACE course kept to the point and satisfied its enthusiastic customers.



## The Hampden Group

Josie Levine on closing the gap between 'special' and 'normal' English classes for second language learners

Attention has been given to the special needs of children from non-English speaking backgrounds. But much often seems to get caught between "special" and "normal" English classes.

One class may bear little relation to the other and this lack of connection is not simply because of poor teaching. Each teacher may be working to the accepted methodology of their field. But, while they are both doing something called "English" or "language development", they usually get into it at very different points. They may also be using different classroom organizations and have widely different notions of social roles and relationships in the classroom. There are, too, differences in the range, kinds and combinations of language skills upon which they can call.

Some people might like all non-English speaking children to spend much longer in special classes, hoping that the longer they stay, the greater the native-like competence acquired. But, the linguistic facts do not add up to such a sum. Nor, happily, is it administratively possible. Second-language learners in most areas will be in normal classes either immediately or within months of starting. It is unreasonable, therefore, to expect them to know enough English to take part in normal lessons without help.

Recommendation 253 of the Bullock report says that there should be close cooperation between subject teacher and language specialist. This could merely involve describing the mode of teaching in any particular class, or go on to include declaring what activities will be taking place and trying to work out ways of helping children to do the same kinds of activities as the rest of the class—even if what they do is not of the same complexity.

The responsibility for help rests on both sets of teachers. This may mean some special language classes becoming more like normal English classes. (That, after all, is the aim.) It may mean that some normal English classes, if they have not already learnt to do it, will



Three years after they began the group got together again at Hampden Road with Josie Levine. From the left: Djinis Mehmet (14), Raksha Patel (14), Atulesh Patel (17), and Harikrishna Patel (15).

need to accept the children, right from the beginning, as part of the class. In a mixed-ability class, for example, some of the lessons might be class lessons and some might be workshop lessons. High status might be given, let's say, to creative writing.

What help can the two teachers offer a second-language learner to help him to write? The work of the Hampden group gives some pointers. Other activities, both linguistic and non-linguistic, helped with writing, and a responsive audience encouraged real commitment—and not only me, but also the response of a wider unknown audience who read the printed versions of the children's stories. Models of various kinds offered the children, both a frame-work and the means of expressing themselves. Talk with the writer about grammar, ways of expression, understandability, plotting, charac-

terization and emotion are an opportunity for some individualized second-language teaching. But development in children's writing is not always discernible from one place to the next. It takes time; different children initiate ideas at different times, thereby teaching each other.

When the Hampden group was first formed all the children in it came from non-English speaking backgrounds. They met once a week, and gradually things developed such as playing and working in the garden, watching television, playing dominoes, making tape recordings, drawing, typing, borrowing books, initiating stories which were sometimes done together and sometimes not.

At first, I would type their stories as they told them, and negotiate with them over grammar and expression. They would permit changes only when they were certain that what I offered actually

said what they meant. Otherwise, they insisted on their own forms. This telling and negotiating and their seeing how things were put down helped them to see how to do their own writing later. One kind of model.

Nor is it always the "favoured" children who take the next step. Atulesh who suffers from brain damage was the one who started writing at home. He made that very perceptible. Another kind of model.

Yet another kind of model was seeing what others were doing. Some girls in a special language class had read *Jackie's Half-term Adventure* (Ken Warpole, Centreprise), and decided to do a similar book themselves. We worked on the photographs, sorted and ordered them, retold the story from them, and did a critique of the illustrations. It inspired their first effort: *The Lost Money*.

continued on opposite page

## Nothing but the best

A plea from Mary MacRae

In my first term as an English teacher at a large inner London comprehensive school I had a salutary experience. Fairly new to teaching, and absolutely new to the conditions of a large urban school, I battled wearily with a low stream, fourth-year class on the boring and trashy reader allocated that term, when I caught a girl reading under the desk. I snatched the book away and held it at arm's length. It was *Ibsen's Ghosts*.

In the current debate on standards, shock and dismay have been expressed at low levels of attainment, yet this is hardly surprising when the standard of school

material is, at every level, also very low. This is true across the whole ability range: as an examiner of A-level English I can vouch for the fact that many English teachers schemes and figures of speech as the most interesting part of studying poetry. This is even more serious for the non-academic pupils whose only chance of any culture may be at school. How is this adolescent being educated? She is reading too often the sort of book is more likely to be *Sam and Ma than Shakespeare*.

The teacher may be lucky to find himself with books to read at all.

to the English department. There is a lifeless modern translation instead of the Authorized Version of the Bible in assembly, music departments with pop music courses and mathematics departments organizing chess games against computers. But it is English that concerns me at the moment, where our raw material, our subject, leaves us free to choose from the whole range of English literature—and where all too often the sort of book is more likely to be *Sam and Ma than Shakespeare*.

The teacher may be lucky to find himself with books to read at all.

He may be part of a team "teaching" a concept like "poverty", or he may be involved in some pseudo political-philosophical debate about linguistics, or urged to use multi-visual aids. Aids to what? I wondered, as yards of expensive tape gushed out of the space age television set. Are we helping our pupils by substituting ersatz study for the real thing, or are we insulting them, and hindering them from educating themselves?

There is of course a place in the English department for simple tools for adolescents still learning to read, but this is a small, specialised area. Otherwise, I do not think we can justify giving pupils—often those already suffering deprivation—anything less than the best. I am not of course advocating study of *The Golden Bowl* for fourth year bottom stream pupils, but I do know from experience that those who cannot read at all or read with difficulty need not be cut off from literature. The great popular English writers, Shakespeare and Dickens, have always appealed to audiences on many levels—the groundlings of the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries might well have been illiterate—and I have never yet taught a class that did not enjoy these writers.

One summer term I read *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with a class of 14-year-olds. As usual this was a success and we decided to embark on something more ambitious like *Macbeth*. We were lucky enough to have that old fashioned shortened school edition of Shakespeare published by Ginn and Co in stock, ruthlessly cut in places but very useful in the classroom. The ability range of the class ranged from average to high, but the could not read. About half had some difficulty in reading, so I was prepared to abandon it after a few scenes.

Apart from the problem of finding competent readers to take parts, the teaching that it was unfair for *Macbeth* to be both *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth*, the attention of the class was riveted and even the normally apathetic became enthusiastic. We

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## Basic English—university level

The City University of New York has had to tackle mixed-ability teaching of a kind unknown in Britain, writes Suzanne Wiener

Is extensive remedial teaching in basic English possible at university level? This question is being asked at the City University of New York which has faced formidable problems since it went "comprehensive" in 1971.

For one thing, CUNY's student population is much more than 200,000 a year, another, the many senior, community and upper division colleges—not to mention post-graduate units—stretch incompatibly to its limits.

City University was, until recently, the only municipally funded free university in the United States—a "proletarian Harvard"—and a source of inspiration to successive waves of immigrants. Few institutions have had such an effect on a big city.

"Comprehensive education" at CUNY, it should be explained, involved a policy of open admissions for all New Yorkers with a high school diploma or its equivalent. This is mixed ability teaching of a kind unknown in Britain; every student was offered a free university place regardless of his reading or writing skills.

It is even more extreme than it sounds for the literacy of some of the City University's undergraduates is close to non-existent. The student body reflects New York's ethnic and racial diversity. Many students from poor southern black families are unfamiliar with competitive academic mores and others are first generation migrants from countries as linguistically and historically diverse as Puerto Rico, Hongkong and Haiti. A large number, not surprisingly, have language problems and lack experience.

Yet this unprecedented experiment has not been a total fiasco,

and it is useful to ponder why. Admittedly, the open admissions policy has brought about a decline in academic standards. Many good courses have been sustained and some strengthened by the new ideas and more heterogeneous intake, but some gifted students, the quondam beneficiaries of selection, are beginning to search for greener pastures. They feel threatened by a pervasive mediocrity and are justifiably resentful of being neglected.

In a cultural landscape unconfined to traditional standards, administrators have found it all too easy to agree to pleas for "relevant" courses and fewer external restraints.

Fortunately—and this may ultimately justify the enormous financial and academic costs of open admissions—the university has had success with its less academic students. It has run remedial English courses from which students can go on to a full academic programme. Students are streamed and only introduced to a more rigorous academic course in stages according to skill and experience.

The university's English departments have had to carry the burden of this work and many have done well. Their strategies for improving reading and writing range from the use of tape recorders, videotapes and other mechanical aids to intensive tutorials concentrating on grammar and spelling, the last one the most successful.

Frustrated Chaucer specialists and unrepentant classicists (two species, in imminent danger of extinction at CUNY due to lack of students) have been pressed into service to teach remedial students. Large numbers of professionally trained outsiders, especially those

experienced in teaching English as a second language, have also been hired. Often working on an inter-departmental basis, these specialists have introduced new techniques and had more success than other teachers lacking the training. The success or failure of all this cannot yet be gauged. It is clear that many students—however clever—will be unable to overcome the years of inadequate training in basic English skills and lack of exposure to academic life. Even with the best will in the world and the most imaginative remedies, success cannot always be achieved in a term or a year. Thus large numbers of "open admissions" students are already dropping out, scarred doubly by the frustration of failure at a mature age and by knowing the stakes of failure are high.

Other students often against all odds—do make it. They are a minority able to translate ability and determination into success. Their commitment is considerable because they have a university education they did not expect and, in many cases, see themselves as victims of prejudice and discrimination. Almost certainly, they started out with respectable standards and so were seen as redeemable.

But how many students never have the opportunity to show what they can do? This is a fundamental question because its implications—in wasted human lives and social productivity—are so significant, and should not be treated lightly. For the potential of education should look closely at the City University of New York in the years to come.

Suzanne Wiener is a research associate, Teachers College, Columbia University.

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By now, the initiative had moved to Harikrishna. *The Lost Money* was his plot. He saw it as a film and set it down as a story. I was interested in the plotting and engaged in a tough battle with him to get the losing of the money more credible. I lost. He was much more interested in the stresses and joys of writing and then finding something.

The others got involved because of "acting" parts in the photos. All of them lost interest in writing the story. But they did want a book. It was only when the cover, title page and back page had been designed that anyone showed any willingness to deal with words. Two others, Djinis and Raksha, took over. They dictated while I typed. Then we shaped and designed the book.

They had seen the whole process now from idea to printing, and it was at this point that the writing really took off. That day, Djinis started a story which he designed straight on to the page, and after I had read bits from George Byron's *Ballads* and *Other Poems* (Longman), he wrote three others—including one of his printed works: *The boy who couldn't do his homework*.

Harikrishna started writing on his own too, and hasn't stopped since. He has a folder of something like 50 stories just waiting to be edited and printed. The task of choosing is daunting. Atulash prefers to type, and Raksha reads. The children make mistakes; some of their expressions are quaint others need teasing into understanding. Sometimes their stories are boring—but they are only human, and being human, they also get better and better.

What I have described is just one aspect of one part of the work that goes on under the heading of "English". What I try to do is to combine the good practice of non-English teaching with foreign-language teaching techniques. My success is relative. However, the discussion is wide open both in writing and other aspects of English teaching. Anyone interested in discussing ways of bringing the two together closer together for the children can write to me at London University Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1.

Josie Levine is a lecturer in English at the London University Institute of Education.

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## Enigmatic clarity

By Stephen Barber

Borges on Writing. Allen Lane £3.00, 7139 8784 3. Introduction to English Literature. By Jorge Luis Borges. Robson Books £2.25, 903895 27 7.

Borges's stories appeal to scientists and crossword enthusiasts more than to literary people, yet their literary value is high. They neglect character for paradoxes of time and eternity, and are told in a style of enigmatic clarity. Yet they are also more traditional than they look, for they belong to the same form as the stories of Poe and Kafka. All three writers reject realistic narrative for intellectual puzzles and dreams which may become nightmares. When they do use realistic details, we may expect occasional details and a macabre ending. They are hard to forget: the imaginary worlds of Tlön and the Babylonian lottery, Funes of the perfect memory. And all critics should remember Pierre Menard, who set out in the twentieth century to rewrite Don Quixote in the original words but without consulting Cervantes.

Borges has become a cult outside his own country thanks to translations which seem at least as good as the originals. There is a curious parallel with Poe, whose French versions are said to be better than their originals. We can understand the excellence of Borges in English from *Borges on Writing*, which shows the writer collaborating with his translator and willingly accepting his influence. "We don't think of ourselves as two men when we are working. We are two minds attempting the same goal." Two collaborators become a "third man" when they forget personal circumstances and "yield themselves completely to the work."

This humility comes partly from Borges's own practice in translation, and partly from his respect for language and traditional forms.

He regards a poem or a story as a gift which he must work to capture in words, but doing so is less like acquiring than freeing oneself of property.

He does not remember his own work, and there is a delicious moment when an unconscious quotation prompts the comment: "I am quite incapable of invention. I must fall back on that minor South American writer, Borges." This is vintage Borges, and though the book was not actually written by him but derives from tapes of seminars he gave, it shows his mind at work as his formal and polished productions cannot.

Apparently there are many English constructions in Borges's Spanish. He certainly knows English literature well, but his *Introduction* is unworthy. Borges was already blind when he wrote or dictated it. A collaborator and two translators were involved but goodness knows what they were all doing. This tiny book (78 pages) has too many mistakes. To say Falstaff's humour is uncharacteristic of the seventeenth century is wrong in several ways at once. There is a muddle about Wordsworth which one of those three helpers should have spotted.

In a short book everything hangs on good choices, but here they are merely quirky. Minor travel writers rate a mention when Jane Austen does not; indeed, Borges seems uninterested in fiction apart from short stories. However, the book has interest in revealing his heroes: Browne, de Quincey, Stevenson, Morris, Chesterton. His favourite English poet is Coleridge and he firmly accepts Anglo-Saxon poetry as part of the tradition.

But the rich literary essays of *Other Inquisitions* show this *Introduction* as feeble. It is a sign of the haunting power of Borges's stories that such scraps from a writer's workshop as these can find a market.

## Bloodless orgy

Joseph Conrad. By Edward Crankshaw. Macmillan £7.95, 333 18636 2. (second edition)

In 1936 when this monograph was first published, Joseph Conrad was to most critics little other than a man of sea and jungle. One of the first to proclaim Conrad's genius in the years after his death when he was unfashionable, Edward Crankshaw's book was that of a young man championing his literary cause, by turns too subjective and assertive.

He calls his study a "bloodless orgy", fighting in vain to come to terms with the genius of his subject. Where he does succeed is in suggesting the spirit of a great novelist, but this is not achieved without much sweat and blood from the reader who must force on through 250 densely written and unindexed pages.

His first three chapters examine Conrad the human being—the Polish exile, sailor, naturalized Englishman loving his new country, the bare essentials which are to become the ungainly thread of his novels. Conrad was oppressed by a sense of evil which was to him an irresponsible force wandering at large in an ordered and respectable society.

His characters' strengths are honour, courage, endurance and duty; yet the ironic spirit in the novelist allows the truth of his heroes through an excess of the very qualities that give them life.

Crankshaw sees Conrad as a "subjective visionary committed to the ideal of objectivity", moralizing through a mouthpiece, never intruding himself into the frame-work of the plot. There is, he contends, hardly a single invented character in Conrad's entire output, and he dwells at length on this inability to invent. Conrad chose rather to pile agony upon agony in a protagonist's life by making him experience in a brief space of time the series of events shared in real life by many people over a lifetime.

The later chapters treat the uneven greatness of the major novels—*Heart of Darkness* and *Under Western Eyes*—with a bewildering depth of cross reference, and anticipate in the reader a familiarity with the texts that only Conrad devotees will have. This is a specialist's volume which without bibliography or index will be of little purpose on the school library shelf.

## English Romantics

By Roy Blatchford

Byron: Child Harold's Pilgrimage and other Romantic poems. Edited by John Jump. Everyman University Library £3.25, 460 10005 X. Paperback £1.65, 11005 5.

Shelley. By Gillian Carey. Evans £2.80, 237 44820 J. Paperback £1.25, 44821 1.

Browning: Men and Women and other poems. Edited by J. W. Harper. Everyman University Library £1.00, 460 10005 X. Paperback £1.65, 11427 1.

John Jump, in his crisp and pertinent introduction to Byron's poems, asks the question who were the two greatest English Romantic writers? He contends that a twentieth-century British reader might well answer Wordsworth and Keats; if challenged to reconsider, he might substitute Blake or Coleridge or Shelley—yet a continental reader would opt for Byron and Scott and leave it at that.

For Lord Byron's poetry embodies sentiments and ideas more closely approximating to those of the French and German Romantics than does that of any other leading English writer of the time, and the principal poem of this selection, "Child Harold's Pilgrimage", symbolizes this image of Byron as the passionate and surdonic, action-critic and unbridled romantic playboy of the Mediterranean Sea; throughout the four Cantos this guise blurs hopelessly with the alleged persona of the indeterminate tourist Harold, "Mazepa", alone.

side the Pilgrimage echoes Byron's quest for freedom, while the inclusion of several shorter lyrics ("She Walks in Beauty" and "When We Two Parted") highlights in Professor Jump's words, the "precarious humanism" which underlies Byron's strong love of liberty.

Byron's admiration for Shelley was constant: "the best, the least selfish man I have ever known" and while Gillian Carey shows the latter to have been a little more waxing and waning than that, the unwhimsical leads us along his meteoric path to death in the Bay of Spezia with a refreshing and learned eye (the literature in perspective series is aimed at the young reader and the intelligent began with a rejection of arcane critical jargon and with a constant reminder of our neglect of this English poet). The longer poem each merit a chapter's meticulous and enlightening critique.

A little more than 30 years after Shelley's death the new poetry so claimed by the Pre-Raphaelites movement went on trial before the British public in the shape of John Browning's "Men and Women". J. W. Harper points to its place among the finest single creations of Victorian literature, and to the modernism in Browning's efforts to break through the surface of experience and explore the darkest recesses of the subconscious mind, as the same time setting the poem at again value of the earlier and later verse. In the light of the first heroic reception in 1855, tempered only by the enthusiasm of the young, what today's student makes of this vision of love as indubitable, reality, the climactic experience of life, despite the condition of the introductory material, is an unequalled assertion of "auster temp, auster mores".

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Domestic Subjects  
Economics  
English  
Geography  
History  
Mathematics  
Modern Languages  
Music  
Pastoral  
Physical Education  
Religious Education  
Science

Speech and Drama  
Technical Studies  
Other than by Subjects  
Preparatory Schools  
Headships  
English  
Music  
Other than by Subjects  
Colleges of Further Education  
Directors and Principals  
Heads of Department  
Other Appointments  
Universities  
Colleges of Higher Education  
Heads of Department  
Other Appointments  
Adult Education  
Community Homes and Associated Institutions  
Headships and Deputy Headships  
Other Appointments

Assessment Centres  
Youth and Community Service  
Overseas Appointments  
Administration  
Local Education Authority  
General  
Educational Psychologists  
Examiners  
Librarians  
Ancillary Services  
Miscellaneous  
Outdoor Education  
English as a Foreign Language

### Appointments wanted

Public Notices  
Educational Courses  
Awards and Scholarships  
Personal Announcements  
Exhibitions  
For Sale and Wanted  
Holidays and Accommodation  
Home Exchange Holidays  
Partnerships  
Properties for Sale and Wanted  
Typing and Duplicating

### Other classifications

Public Notices  
Educational Courses  
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Personal Announcements  
Exhibitions  
For Sale and Wanted  
Holidays and Accommodation  
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continued from page 44

read the play in every day's lesson until we had finished and then we read it again. I have never heard such rapid attention in the theatre as that class gave to a very imperfect reading of "I have given stick."

Dickens, of course, is perfect for reading aloud, and again pupils who find difficulty in reading can simply listen and enjoy. I had certainly never realized before I read *Oliver Twist* aloud, with a very low ability fifth year group quite how dramatic and terrifying is Nancy's death and Sykes's subsequent flight.

All this, of course, is not saying anything very new. But it is a plea not to fob off our less able pupils with the best of our literature, to make them feel that we are doing a good job, but to make them feel that we are doing a bad job. But it is a plea for teachers to realize that they are not alone in their struggle with their pupils, and that they should join an integrated studies team to teach "war," "poverty," "poverty."

We are doing something better and aiming higher by trying to communicate an enthusiasm for our subject. We cannot accomplish this if we attempt to do it alone. We should be attempting to do it together. We cannot even teach some of our pupils to read, but we can ensure that what we do read properly. If a child is capable of speaking, understanding, and writing correctly, he should be able to do so. We can offer real literary experiences to all our pupils, and hope now and then to awaken an individual response. It has been a modest ambition, but at least a reasonable one.

## 3 New English Series

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The swing is definitely "back to basics" and we have published the following series which is in answer to the current demand and caters to a wide range of ability and apparatus.

### Mainline English

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A new series of three books for Reading Age 8 to 12, which promotes enjoyment and understanding of our written language through graded testing in higher-order reading skills. These books—comprehension at the explicit, inferential, reorganization, and evaluation levels—are developed through discussion and further study. Each book is arranged in thematic units and the extracts reflect a variety of styles—fiction, fact, newspaper article, poetry, diagrams and charts material, and advertisements.  
Pupils' Books, each £1.25 Teachers' Books, each £2.00

### Strategies for Language Arts

THORN, BRAUN, RICHMOND  
This Canadian series, published by Gage Educational, is designed to help middle and lower secondary school pupils acquire and develop the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The readers contain topics to motivate, develop, and stimulate discussion. The programme includes graded thematic readers, accompanying Pupils' practice books, interpretation books and comprehensive teachers' books—three sections: People Like Me? Something to Remember? How Many Miles? Prices on request.

For inspection copies and full details write to—  
**Holmes McDougall Limited**  
137, 141 Edith Walk,  
Edinburgh EH6 9NS

### Nursery Education

**BEDFORDSHIRE**  
EDUCATION SERVICE  
NORTHGATE AREA  
QUEEN'S PARK LOWER SCHOOL  
Washburn Road, Bedford  
Headship for January 1977. A male head with special responsibility for Nursery School. Salary £10,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Bedfordshire Education Service, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK43 9JL. Closing date 15th September 1976.

**BEDFORDSHIRE**  
EDUCATION SERVICE  
SOUTHGATE AREA  
11, MAIDENHALL INFANT SCHOOL  
Newark Road, Luton  
Headship for January 1977. A male head with special responsibility for Nursery School. Salary £10,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Bedfordshire Education Service, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK43 9JL. Closing date 15th September 1976.

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### Primary Education

**BROMLEY**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
KIRK BRANWORTH FIRST SCHOOL  
Bramworth Road, Nottingham  
Headship for January 1977. A male head with special responsibility for Primary School. Salary £10,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Bromley Education Committee, Nottingham, NG2 9JL. Closing date 15th September 1976.

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**CAMBRIDGESHIRE**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
KIRK BRANWORTH FIRST SCHOOL  
Bramworth Road, Nottingham  
Headship for January 1977. A male head with special responsibility for Primary



HOLBROOK COUNTY JUNIOR SCHOOL  
WYCH LANE, BRIDGEMARY, GOSPORT PO13 0JN  
**DEPUTY HEAD—GROUP 5**  
Details and application forms obtainable from Head  
on receipt of stamped addressed envelope.  
Closing date September 30.  
Assistance with removal expenses in approved cases.

**MID HANTS AREA**  
NETLEY ABBEY COUNTY JUNIOR SCHOOL,  
WESTWOOD ROAD, NETLEY ABBEY, SOUTHAMPTON  
**DEPUTY HEAD—GROUP 5**  
Required for January, 1977.  
Number on roll 302.  
Please write to the Head giving full curriculum vitae  
and the names and addresses of two educational  
references. Assistance with removal expenses in  
approved cases. Closing date October 1, 1976.

**SOUTH EAST AREA**  
HAVANT, BIDBURY COUNTY JUNIOR SCHOOL  
**DEPUTY HEAD—GROUP 7**  
Application forms and further details from the Area  
Education Officer, 2 Beechworth Road, Havant, Hants  
PO9 1AX (stamped addressed envelope please)  
Closing date October 1, 1976.  
(Re-advertisement, previous applications will be con-







































## SHEFFIELD EDUCATION

Stannington College of Further Education  
Myers Grove Lane, Sheffield, S6 5JL

Department of Mechanical and Production Engineering

## PRINCIPAL LECTURER

(Required for 1st January, 1977)

Applicants should have considerable experience in teaching and in industry and have graduate or equivalent academic qualifications. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Chief Administrative Officer (Ref. JM) on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, to whom they should be returned by 30th September, 1976.

London Borough of Redbridge

## Redbridge Technical College

Little Heath, Barley Lane,  
Romford, Essex RM6 4XT

Principal: A. G. Hall, B.Sc. (Econ.), D.P.A.,  
F.C.I.S., Cert. Ed.  
Required from 1st January, 1977

## Senior Lecturer

(Deputy Head of Faculty)

in FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Salary Scale: £5,031-£5,955 (plus £297 London Allowance and £312 supplement).

Forms and further particulars from the Principal at the above address.

## SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following posts:

A. Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in the Mechanical and Production Engineering Department

Either (i) A degree or professional qualification in Mechanical or Production Engineering or Industrial Engineering, or (ii) but who are able to teach techno-management and allied areas of operations management.

B. Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in the Marine Engineering & Shipbuilding Division

Either (i) Hold a degree or professional qualification in Marine Engineering or Shipbuilding, or (ii) Hold a Certificate of Competency as 1st Class Engineer. Experience on automated ship would be an advantage.

Or (iii) A degree or professional qualification in Naval Architecture or Shipbuilding and have some practical experience in a shipyard.

Appointees will be required to teach Technician Diploma Courses as well as that of Second and First Class Engineer's examinations.

C. Lecturer/Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Nautical Studies

Either (i) Certificate of Competency as Extra Master, or (ii) Department of Trade and Industry Certificate of Competency as Master Foreign-going or acceptable equivalent.

Or (iii) A recognised degree in Nautical Studies or Nautical Science.

Appointees will be required to teach subjects in the Masters and Mates, Second and First Class Engineer's and to mark correspondence courses. For these posts, applicants must be qualified to teach Technicians Diploma Courses and to assist with the development of courses at the Polytechnic.

GROSS SALARY RANGE: £4,392 to £6,274 per annum. Assistant Lecturer: £3,063 to £3,221 per annum.

(Excludes rates: £1,584.50)

The point of entry in the above salary scales will depend on qualifications and experience.

FRIBO BENEFITS: 1. Merit increments and good promotion opportunities.

2. Provident Fund contribution of 15% from the Polytechnic.

3. For overseas appointees who are normally domiciled outside Singapore and the Malaysia region, the Polytechnic provides return economy air passages for them, their wives and up to three dependent children below the age of 18 years.

4. Overseas staff are also provided with furnished accommodation at nominal rent.

5. Loans for purchase of etc.

6. Free medical attention for staff members and their families.

Interested applicants are required to submit their curriculum vitae together with details of their academic, professional, qualifications, experience, and documentary evidence, etc., to the Registrar, Singapore Polytechnic, P.O. Box 2023, Singapore, Republic of Singapore.

## Ipswich Civic College

Required for January 1, 1977

## LECTURER II in Production Management/Industrial Relations

To teach Production Management and Industrial Relations on courses such as Institution of Works Managers, Diploma in Management Studies, Institute of Personnel Management, Institute of Production Control, etc. The successful applicant will also be required to act as Course Tutor to Works Management Courses.

Sound industrial experience and professional qualifications are essential. Teaching experience useful but not essential. Starting salary will be within the following scale:

£23,561 to £25,005 per annum.

Further details and application forms (returnable within 14 days) are obtainable from the Principal, Ipswich Civic College, Rope Walk, Ipswich IP4 1LT. Please forward a stamped and addressed envelope and quote post number 4/27.

Harrow—College of Further Education

## HEAD

## DEPARTMENT OF ADULT STUDIES—GROUP 4

Opportunity for educationalist with imagination, broad experience, good qualifications and excellent organising ability to take over a lively department, to consolidate existing areas of work and to lay the foundations for a future system of re-entrant education for adults. Salary up to £24,211. Generous fringe benefits with regard to removal expenses.

Closing date, October 4, 1976.

## TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC STUDIES DEPARTMENT

A senior lecturer is required to be responsible for the oversight of work in the Mathematics, Physics and Engineering sections of the Department.

Courses for which the department is responsible include: GCE 'O' and 'A' level, School Link courses, City and Guild Telecommunication Technician course, Part 1.

Salary up to £28,004. Generous fringe benefits with regard to removal expenses.

Closing date September 27, 1976.

Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Principal's Secretary, Harrow College of Further Education, Uxbridge Road, Hatch End or Tel. 01-428 0121, ext. 43.

## SOUTH THAMES COLLEGE

## Principal Lecturers

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING PROCESSES

Wandsworth High Street, LONDON, SW18 2PP

Re-advertisement

Duties to assist the Head of Department in the administration and co-ordination of the work of that section of the department which includes courses in Fabrication and Welding, Mechanical Craft Studies and Motor Vehicle courses. (Ref. DEP/PL/77.)

## DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND COMPUTING

Wandsworth High Street, LONDON, SW18 2PP

Re-advertisement

Duties to assist the Head of Department in the administration and co-ordination of the work of that section of the department which includes courses in Management Services and Computing. (Ref. DEP/MS/77.)

## DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

Wandsworth High Street, LONDON, SW18 2PP

Re-advertisement

Duties to assist the Head of Department in the administration and co-ordination of the work of that section of the department which includes courses in Modern Languages. (Ref. DEP/ML/77.)

## DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

Wandsworth High Street, LONDON, SW18 2PP

Re-advertisement

Duties to assist the Head of Department in the administration and co-ordination of the work of that section of the department which includes courses in Modern Languages. (Ref. DEP/ML/77.)

## DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

Wandsworth High Street, LONDON, SW18 2PP

Re-advertisement

Duties to assist the Head of Department in the administration and co-ordination of the work of that section of the department which includes courses in Modern Languages. (Ref. DEP/ML/77.)

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Wandsworth High Street, LONDON, SW18 2PP

Re-advertisement

Duties to assist the Head of Department in the administration and co-ordination of the work of that section of the department which includes courses in Modern Languages. (Ref. DEP/ML/77.)

## DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

Wandsworth High Street, LONDON, SW18 2PP

Re-advertisement

Duties to assist the Head of Department in the administration and co-ordination of the work of that section of the department which includes courses in Modern Languages. (Ref. DEP/ML/77.)

## PREPARATORY continued

## Other than by Subject Classification

## NORFOLK

DOWN CLASH HOUSE, NORFOLK

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering.

Applicants should have a degree or equivalent qualification in Mechanical Engineering.

Applicants should have a minimum of five years' experience in the field of Mechanical Engineering.

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## EAST SUSSEX continued

## COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION continued

## KENT

JOINTLY RUN COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

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Applicants should











## RE-ADVERTISEMENT

## London Borough of Redbridge

### Teacher/Adviser— Mathematics

Salary: Senior Teacher Scale £4,380-£5,840 plus £312 Supplement and £297 London Allowance. Car allowance payable.

Applications are invited from graduates with suitable teaching experience for the post of Teacher/Adviser in MATHEMATICS from 1st January, 1977 or as soon as possible thereafter. Assistance is given with legal fees for house purchase and towards removal and resettlement expenses where appropriate. Application forms and further particulars from John Fordham, Chief Education Officer, 255-259 High Road, Ilford Essex IG1 1NN. Closing date 1st October, 1976.

## Suffolk County Council

### Advisory Teacher for Modern Languages

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced teachers of French for the above post. The successful applicant will be responsible to the County Modern Languages Adviser and will be based on Bury St. Edmunds. The main focus of the work will be in schools in the Western Area of the County with a particular brief for the Middle Schools (10-13 years). It is desirable that the Advisory Teacher appointed will be able to contribute towards the teaching of one other modern language.

Salary in accordance with Scale 3 of the Burnham Schools Report.

Application forms and further details obtainable from the County Education Officer, Education Office, Grimwade Street, Ipswich (stamped addressed envelope, please) to be returned by September 24th, 1976.

## HAMPSHIRE EDUCATION AUTHORITY



**Highbury  
Technical  
College**

## PORTSMOUTH

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

£3,825 to £4,545 p.a. plus £312 Pay Award.

Qualified Accountant required, preferably with knowledge of education accountancy; experience in staffing matters an advantage.

Application forms and further details from: The Secretary, Highbury Technical College, Gosham, Portsmouth PO6 2SA. (Cosham 83131, ext. 247).

## Norfolk County Council EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### General Inspectors

Applicants should have good qualifications and sound experience as a teacher, plus experience in a senior post in schools or the advisory service.

General Inspectors will work under the direction of the Senior Inspector and will be expected to contribute a subject and/or phase expertise as well as carrying out general inspectional duties. In particular, there is opportunity for a special contribution to be made in English Language and the Middle Years of Schooling (8 to 12 in Norfolk).

Salary: Southbury Range, Head Teacher Group 10 £7,455 to £8,078, plus supplement of £312 per annum. A car allowance is payable.

Full particulars and application forms from the County Education Officer, County Hall, Marlineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DL, on receipt of stamped addressed envelope, to be returned by October 1, 1976.

## Northumberland County Council

### Assistant Director of Education

£6,396—£7,407+  
£312 Salary Supplement

The main duties of the post will cover all aspects of further education and the education provision for older school children.

Applicants for this third tier post should be honours graduates and have appropriate teaching and administrative experience.

Application form returnable by 8th October and further details from the Director of Education, Eldon House, Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3JZ.

## Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

## EDUCATION SERVICES

### Careers Adviser (Handicapped)

SO1 £4,551-£4,857

To maintain and develop the facilities provided by the Careers Service for handicapped young persons, liaise with Special Schools and other appropriate services and give individual guidance to the severely handicapped, including assistance in obtaining training and/or employment and liaise with industry. Applicants should have appreciable experience in careers guidance of young persons, preferably with relevant experience amongst the handicapped and preferably a Degree, Certificate of Education or similar qualification. Possession of a Diploma in Vocational or Careers Guidance an added advantage.

Assistance with housing and removal expenses in appropriate cases.

Application forms and further details from the Chief Executive (Personnel Section), 2 Priory Place, Doncaster DN1 1BN (Tel. 0302 20321). Closing date: September 30.

## LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### Education Welfare Officer

Salary scale: £2,814 to £3,294 plus £312 National Supplement (with progression to £3,651 if appropriately qualified). A casual car user allowance possible. Assisted with removal expenses in approved cases.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced men and women for appointment as soon as possible. Duties mainly concerned with school attendance, welfare work and supervising employment of children.

Further particulars and forms of application obtainable from the Chief Education Officer, Town Hall, Barking, Essex, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Completed forms should be submitted to the Chief Education Officer by October 9, 1976.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### CHIEF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

Salary Scale £6,989 to £7,593, plus £351 London Weighting (Burnham H/T Group), and £312 salary supplement.

This post arises on the promotion of the previous holder. The person appointed will lead a team of six educational psychologists and it will be the responsibility of the Chief Educational Psychologist to coordinate the present activities in the School Psychological Service and the Child Guidance Service and to advise on developments.

Candidates should have an honours degree in Psychology, Post-Graduate training in Educational Psychology and experience both in teaching and in school psychological and child guidance services.

Further details and application forms from the Administration Manager, Room 708, Brent House, High Road, Wembley, Middlesex, returnable by 30th September. Telephone 01-803 0371 (24-hour Answering Service). Reference number E/25 must be quoted.

## London Borough of BRENT

### ilea INNER LONDON EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Following the appointment of the present Deputy as Education Officer from January 1977, and the resignation of the officer responsible for Finance and Support Services at Second Deputy level, the Authority seeks to fill two positions:

### Deputy Education Officer £11,809 - £13,813

### Second Deputy Education Officer £10,663 - £11,695

These posts will carry with them responsibility for one or other of the three main branches of the Authority's administration:

Schools  
Finance and Support Services  
Further, Higher and Community Education (at present filled at Second Deputy level)

Application forms and particulars from the Establishment Officer (EO/Estab 2A/1), County Hall, London SE1 7PB. Completed forms to be returned by 8 October 1976

## Birmingham Youth Treatment Centre

### DIRECTOR

This new Centre, situated at Erdington, will provide long-term care, education, and treatment for some of the most severely disturbed boys and girls—aged from about 12 upwards—in the care of local authorities. It will combine some of the treatment possibilities of a school, a community home and a hospital, and will have a multi-disciplinary staff of qualified teachers, residential social workers, nurses and occupational therapists working together in house teams. The Centre will also have the support and advice of psychologists and a consultant psychiatrist.

The post is open to those with good professional qualifications and experience in the fields of social work, education, psychiatry, or psychology. Experience of caring for adolescents in a residential setting, together with the ability to provide a high standard of leadership is essential.

Starting salary will be within the range £8,345 - £8,656. There is a pension scheme and rented accommodation will be available.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 6 October 1976), write to Civil Service Commission, Alendon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 88651 (answering service operates outside office hours) or London 01-838 1992 (24 hour answering service). Please quote ref: G/9376/2

The Director will be responsible for the overall administration of the Centre, and development of care, education and treatment programmes and the direction and support of the staff groups.

## Educational Psychologists

### BEDFORDSHIRE EDUCATION SERVICES

Applications are invited for the following posts:

1. CHIEF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST (Salary Scale £6,989 to £7,593, plus £351 London Weighting (Burnham H/T Group), and £312 salary supplement.)

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4. CHIEF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST (Salary Scale £6,989 to £7,593, plus £351 London Weighting (Burnham H/T Group), and £312 salary supplement.)

## Examiners

### ASSOCIATED LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS EXAMINING BOARD

Applications are invited for the following posts:

1. CHIEF EXAMINER (Salary Scale £6,989 to £7,593, plus £351 London Weighting (Burnham H/T Group), and £312 salary supplement.)

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20. CHIEF EXAMINER (Salary Scale £6,989 to £7,593, plus £351 London Weighting (Burnham H/T Group), and £312 salary supplement.)

## THE SOUTH-EAST REGIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD

for the  
Certificate of Secondary Education

### CHIEF EXAMINERS, 1977

### GERMAN INTEGRATED SCIENCE TECHNICAL DRAWING

Applications are invited from teachers with appropriate qualifications and not less than 3 years' first-hand experience of C.S.E. for appointment to the above posts, which have become vacant unexpectedly. The Chief Examiners will assume duty on 1st January, 1977, and be responsible for the examination to be held in May, 1977.

Application forms and further particulars are obtainable (please supply stamped addressed footcap envelope) from the Secretary, The South-East Regional Examinations Board, 2/4 Mount Ephraim Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 1BU, to whom completed applications should be sent at once, but certainly not later than 1st October, 1976.

## London Borough of Redbridge

### Educational Psychologist

Salary £3,900-£6,600 plus £312 Supplement and £297 London Allowance. Commencing salary according to qualifications and experience.

To work in the Redbridge Child Guidance Clinic and School Psychological Service. Qualifications required: Honours degree in psychology or equivalent. Postgraduate training and teaching experience.

The London Borough of Redbridge is a pleasant residential area in North-East London with easy access to the West End and the Essex Countryside. Help will be given in finding accommodation and with legal fees for house purchase, removal and resettlement expenses where appropriate.

Further particulars and application forms available from JOHN FORDHAM, B.A., Chief Education Officer, 255/259 High Road, Ilford IG1 1NN. Closing date 1st October, 1976.

## GUY'S HOSPITAL

### Senior Clinical Psychologist

required at the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. This active Department provides Out-Patient and In-Patient facilities for a wide range of children, as well as taking part in the training of medical students, psychologists, etc.

There is a Learning Centre attached to the Department that provides assessment and treatment for children with learning problems. The person appointed will be expected to take part in assessment treatment, as well as Teaching. There are good opportunities for individual and group research projects. The person appointed will be responsible to the Principal Psychologist, Mr. H. W. Korte, who may be contacted for further information (Ext. 2028).

Apply: Personnel, Guy's Hospital, St. Thomas Street, London SE1 8RT. Tel: 01-407 7000 Extn. 3462. Part-time applicants welcome.

## CITY OF WAKEFIELD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### REMEDIAL EDUCATION SOCIAL WORKER

(£2,520-£3,000 (bar) £3,475 + £312 p.a. supplement)

Applications are invited from well qualified persons who have an interest in and experience of children's educational problems.

The post is funded through Urban Aid and the appointment will be for five years commencing January, 1977. Further details are available on request.



Requests for application forms (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope) should be addressed to The Chief Executive (Personnel Section), Town Hall, Wakefield, to whom they should be returned by 8th October, 1976.







